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Volume 12, Number 52

INSIDE:

**API BEAUTY
INSERTS**

**FIRE SAFETY
INSERTS**

**CRUMP BLASTS
ADMINISTRATION'S
MISHANDLING OF
FEDERAL MONEY**

NEWARK—The Federal government threatens to take a federal grant in three months that was awarded to Newark over ten years ago because of its non-

Now that the city is pressured into using the money, Councilwoman Mildred Crump says the grant's proposed allocations is inappropriate.

The \$12.5 million federal Urban Development Action Grant (UDAG) was awarded to Newark in the 1980s for development projects in the city. According to the city council, the NEDC is awarding the money to a developer who plans to erect a supermarket and mall in the Central Ward, a downtown parking garage development project, and a NEDC-affiliated industrial park.

At Faella, director of NEDC, said in order for a UDAG to be used, it has to be allocated to specific projects which only came into fruition during the fall of 1994 under the direction of the municipal council which actually decides how to allocate the money.

The West Ward is desperately in need of a supermarket, Crump explained. "Ivy Hill has been without a supermarket for years. Yet, the NEDC's decision will put a shopping center in direct competition with Fairmark on Bergen Street." The residents who currently have to travel miles out of the way to shop for food, and still have to do so if the NEDC goes into effect."

Crump further demanding for the implementation of accounting for all grants awarded to the city and an executive oversight committee that insures an adherence to the terms and stipulations of such money. "Be it that or perceived, the procedure for the allocation of a federal grant is tainted and there needs to be measures put in place that will ensure that the decision-making process is fair and true to the intent of the awards," Crump said.

At a public hearing held last Tuesday, Crump said Faella declined to answer questions from the public. "This demonstrates that there is no accountability to communities the agency is failing to serve," stated Crump. "The current NEDC plan, at worst, smacks of conflict of interest, favoritism and bias, at best it ignores the needs of areas in the city that would be better served by UDAG dollars."

Faella refuted the claim saying Mildred Crump did not "do her homework" because he stayed an hour and a half after the hearing to answer questions from the public. This is the second time this year that the Federal government has threatened to withdraw federal money from Newark due to non-use.

**TAHID RAMSEY
LAID TO REST**

JERSEY CITY—"This all about the sport I love the most—football. Football is not a sport you can make someone play, because they wouldn't be any good at it. You have to love the game," said Jim Franklin, September 10, 1996, Tahid Ramsey, Snyder High School City.

By now, every high school coach and football team in New Jersey is familiar with Tahid Ramsey, who, up until last month was the captain of Snyder High School Football Team. Although he was a promising talent, the 17-year-old was not kicked off the team. He died last month from a heart condition during a game.

At his funeral last week, which was attended by more than 2,000 in the Ramseye Church of Christ, 2,000 in the Ramseye Church as well as No. 3 football jersey, football by his side, head coach Alex Franklin eulogized how the reason for the young captain's death was only known to God.

On September 20, during a game against Ferns High School, Ramsey collided with a larger football player and collapsed. He went into a coma and died several days later. Ramsey was a member of the The Salvation Army.



CITY NEWS

Serving New Jersey's African-American Community Since 1983

Waters charges agencies knew of crack scheme

by Ron L. Holland

EAST BRUNSWICK—In providing a seemingly sinister chronology of events that link operatives of the Central Intelligence Agency (CIA) to mass crack cocaine distribution to Los Angeles' black community, Congresswoman Maxine Waters, in her address at the 14th Annual Black Issues Convention, garnered support for her efforts to open a full investigation and expose the possible involvement of high ranking CIA and other government officials.

Before an audience of nearly 400 people, Waters had no difficulty dispelling the notion that rogue CIA agents could not be involved in crack cocaine distribution, but indeed was given authorization from high-ranking officials to conduct such a grandiose scheme.

"One of the reasons why I'm going to spend so much time on this CIA issue is because of the pain that has been generated in our community," Waters said to a captivated audience.

Though, on the surface it seems too conspiratorial that a U.S. government agency would fund the flooding of the black community with crack cocaine, to fund the CIA-backed Nicaraguan Democratic Force (FDN) in their efforts to overthrow a socialist regime, Waters provided a tangible paper trail that outlines the actions of CIA opera-



Congresswoman Maxine Waters

tives and links them to places and events.

In addition, the trail discloses that several government agencies were familiar with the key players in this scheme. "They can't say that nobody knew about it, because our research shows us that they were well known by the DEA, the FBI, the State Department and I believe the White House," Waters charged.

"We now know it went undetected because Oliver North, sitting in the old White House Office building, along with others dealing in the traf-

ficking of cocaine, did it in ways that allowed it to get from Columbia to LA and other places," the congresswoman added.

Providing copies of the original San Jose Mercury News story first broken by investigative reporter Gary Webb, and displaying a search warrant obtained by an LA County Sheriff's department, Waters described how the FBI was hampered in "busting" the drug operation of former FDN leader, Danilo Blandon.

Allegedly, agents, according to documents obtained by Waters, tipped off the LA County Sheriff's Department of Blandon's activities. The Sheriff's Department, in an effort to obtain the warrant, described an intricate operation that included 13 locations to be searched, names of people involved, and the amount of cocaine in transit.

Although a police report that describes the execution of the search warrant was said not to exist, Waters said that she is now in possession of these reports. These police reports indicate that evidence was confiscated from several of the 13 locations.

In St. Waters said army training

tapes and documents outlining the government's involvement were seized as evidence. She also added that some of these documents were copied by an LA Sheriff who, not only participated in the raids of these 13 locations, but was "on the take" himself.

"While these investigations have started," Waters said, "we cannot rest on our laurels because nobody is going to come back and say 'let me tell you how we did it.'"

Waters vowed to continue her campaign to expose everyone that may be involved. She said that through the efforts of black radio, and mounting pressure from the community, questions will be answered.

Waters said, "They don't know what happens when a determined people make up their minds to get to the bottom of things."

And, in an emotional pledge of support at the conclusion of Waters' speech, State President of the NAACP, Elaine Harrington, called on the attendees of the NJ Black Issues Convention and all's member organizations to demand, not ask for a full investigation of these allegations from every elected official in this country."

Harrington insisted that everyone return to their communities with the Convention's theme "Eternal Vigilance: The Charge of African-American Leadership."

Emotional Manipulation—Putting her down or making her feel bad about herself. Making her think she is crazy. Mind games.

Sexual Abuse—Forcing partner to do things he/she doesn't want to do. Treating her like a sex object.

Isolation—Controlling what she does, who she sees and talks to, where she goes.

Intimidation—Putting her in fear by using looks, actions, gestures loud voice, smashing things, or destroying her property.

Using Children—Making her feel guilty about the children. Using them to give messages or visitation as a way to harass her.

Many myths and misconceptions about spouse/partner abuse have prevented organizations from gathering proper information and helping victims for years. The fact is that women ask to be beaten, that it is easy for them to escape the relationship, and that batterers can stop without help are just some of the inaccuracies.

In 1992, the State of New Jersey passed the Domestic Violence Act, protecting anyone 18 years of age or older, or an emancipated minor subjected to domestic violence. According to the law someone is considered a victim of domestic violence if they have experi-

See DOMESTIC VIOLENCE page A-2

Women still main victims of domestic violence

by Kelly Howard



This scene is replayed thousands of times everyday in homes across America

NEWJERSEY—Domestic violence against women is a frequently committed crime. The FBI estimates that a woman is beaten every 18 seconds, and that between two and six million American women are abused annually.

While domestic violence includes child abuse and neglect, and elder abuse, crimes against women—wife, partner, or girlfriend, is the number one problem. Research of reported domestic violence crimes in New Jersey, revealed that over 80 percent were committed against women in 1995.

According to the American Medical Association, family violence results from "the abuse of power and the domination and victimization of a physically less powerful person by a physically more powerful person."

Physical violence—pushing, hitting, choking, kicking, biting, etc., are just part of what a victim has to endure. There are many ways to gauge if one is in an abusive relationship. Domination and control are warning signs of the need for power and control, other signs include:

Domination—Rigid servile/master roles.

Economic Control—Trying to keep her from getting or keeping a job. Making her ask for money.

Ministers defend Prosecutor Minor

by Terrence L. Dixon

ESSEX COUNTY—Leaders of the black clergy demanded the state Attorney General's Office to stop investigating Essex County Prosecutor Clifford Minor. New Jersey's only black prosecutor.

Rumor has it that the State wants to oust the former Gov. Jim Florio (Dem.) appointed prosecutor and replace him with one of Gov. Whitman political allies.

"For more than a year now, Mr. Minor and his office has proven to be an outstanding prosecutor. He has been under investigation by the state. We believe this investigation is without merit, and has as its sole purpose an effort to intimidate and drive from office the present prosecutor, in order to create a vacancy to be filled by the Governor," a press statement issued by the Black Minister's Council of New Jersey stated.

According to a rumor that has been circulating among the prosecutor's supporters, if 52-year-old Minor, whose five-year term expires next year, is ousted, then Governor Christine Whitman (Rep.), who appoints county prosecutors can fill the position with one her constituents. Whitman allegedly has her eyes on current Essex County Executive James Treffinger (R).

The Board of Free Holders (BOF), who chooses the County Executive, would allegedly be able to replace the position with Joseph Divincenzo (D), president of the BOF and friend of Treffinger. This would allegedly increase the chances of A.J. Buddy Fortunato (R), also rumored to be a political ally, to effectively defeat Louise M. Palagano (D) for Divincenzo's position.

Although Whitman's administration denies such allegations, Minor has been under the scrutiny of inves-

tigation for more than a year.

"The state has conducted this investigation for over a year and have probed into his personal affairs and have interrogated his staff and friends. After more than a year, all that has come from this are rumors and lies, designed to deliberately undermine the effectiveness of the prosecution," said Rev. Reginald T. Dinkins at press conference held last week at St. James A.M.E. Church in Newark.

According to the *Star Ledger* and other sources, in 1995 a case questioned if funding for youth and community programs Minor initiated were in compliance with state forfeiture guidelines. In February of this year, a grand jury reviewed allegations that Minor's wife Carol was involved in a scheme with a housing firm providing housing for the poor.

In March, a state grand jury began investigating whether members

of the county prosecutor's office improperly interviewed a witness who was cooperating with the Attorney General's office. During this time, it was reported that Minor would be arrested.

Two weeks ago, according to Black Ministers Council, in an "intended and deliberate" attempt, a reporter from WABC was contacted by a source with the state, who said Minor was going to resign on Friday, September 20. This too, never happened. The state Attorney General's Office would not deny or confirm any of the allegations.

Various members of the council supported the prosecutor's appointment and vowed to stand by him. "If the state has something, put it on the table, get an indictment and go to trial, if not leave him alone," urged Jackson.

Minor was appointed by former Gov. Florio in 1992.

CIA Crack Link Time Line

by Gary Webb,
San Jose Mercury News

1974 Crack cocaine makes its first documented appearance in California, the same year the infiltration of the CIA into the crack cocaine trade begins.

1977 CIA operatives are arrested and jailed briefly in connection with the murder of Nicaraguan's top Customs investigator.

1978 FBI reports CIA agents are smuggling nearly 400,000 pounds of cocaine into U.S.

August: DEA links cocaine seized in Panama City to Meneses smuggling ring.

June: Meneses and Danilo Blandon arrive in the United States as political refugees. Meneses goes to San Francisco; Blandon goes to Los Angeles.

July: Nicaraguan dictator Anastasio Somoza is overthrown by Communist rebels. He and his followers flee to U.S. November: Meneses and his wife buy two homes in Pacific.

1980 Rocky Ross begins dealing small amounts of cocaine in South Central Los Angeles.

March: Former Nicaraguan National Guardsman begins forming guerrilla army in Honduras and Guatemala.

September: Somoza is killed by Paraguay by leftist hit squad.

November: Ronald Reagan is elected President.

1981 June: Contra official Julio Zavala begins selling cocaine in San Francisco.

August: Press conference in Honduras announcing the formation of the Nicaraguan Democratic Force—the FDN—also known as the Contras.

November: San Francisco DEA investigation links Meneses' family cocaine dealings to Contra officials.

December: Reagan signs secret order allowing CIA to begin paramilitary operations against the Nicaraguan government.

January: Meneses flies to Honduras for meeting with Enrique Bermudez, the CIA-paid head of the Contra army, to discuss fund raising in U.S. Blandon says he begins selling cocaine for Meneses shortly after war.

March: At CIA's direction, Contras blow up two bridges leading into Nicaragua, which marks the beginning of the Contra Revolution.

June: FBI arrests Meneses relative and accuses him of laundering \$11 million worth of drug money in three months.

August: Meneses sets up a toilet cassette company in L.A., which Danilo Blandon runs. Office is used for Contra meetings.

October: Meneses hosts FDN meetings in Los Angeles and San Francisco for visiting Contra leaders.

December: Congress votes to prohibit CIA aid to the Contras.

In response to customer demands, Ross begins marketing ready-made crack and learns how to turn a kilo of powder into three or more kilos of rock by adding an anesthetic called procaine, a process known as "blow down." The drug network expands to other states.

January: Policed and Colombian freighter in San Francisco and seize 43 pounds of cocaine from frozen unloading ship.

San Francisco Contra officials accuse dealer Julio Zavala of being \$45,000 from Costa Rican lawyer working with the CIA.

See CIA CRACK LINK page A-2

Got news? We want to hear it. Call us at 908-754-3400 or fax story ideas in to 908-753-1036

PEOPLE

Community Calendar

JERSEY CITY—Jersey City State College will offer review course for the Scholastic Aptitude Test from 9 to 11:30 a.m. For more info call 201-200-3089.

THRU OCTOBER 23
MIDDLETOWN—Monmouth County System will hold "Aerostep" classes at Tatum Park Holland Activity Center from 5:30 to 6:30 p.m. For more info call 908-842-4000.

HOWELL—Monmouth County Park System will hold aerobic workouts at the Manasquan Reservoir from 5:30 to 6:30 p.m. For more info call 908-842-4000.

THRU OCTOBER 26
LINCOLN—The Monmouth County Park System will host an art show featuring the work of Debra L. Rothenberg, Old Bridge and Jane Geyer, Sea Bright from 2 to 4 p.m. in the Visitor Center at Thompson Park, Newman Springs Road. For more info call (908) 842-4000.

THRU OCTOBER
JERSEY CITY—Jersey State College will hold a free series of campus programs. Pre-registration is required. For a complete program listing and registration call (201) 200-3189.

NEWARK—Every Tuesday and Thursday in the remainder of October, the Newark Literacy Campaign is holding orientations for volunteers and reading partners. For more info call 201-623-4001.

NEW JERSEY—Every few days Caucus New Jersey will air "Democracy Works" television series. For a complete listing call 201-568-0250.

ELIZABETH—The Union County Office of Cultural and Heritage Affairs offers Cultural Connections. For a list of events call (908) 558-2550.

THRU OCTOBER 29
EAST ORANGE—The East Orange Farmers Market offers Jersey Fresh vegetables from the Garden State at City Hall Plaza Village from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. every Tuesday. For more info call 201-286-0288.

WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 9
MAHWAH—Congressman Benjamin A. Gilman (New York) will speak at Ramapo College of New Jersey at 4:30 p.m. in the Alumni Lounge. Topic: Where in the World Are We? For more info call 201-529-7432.

CONVENT STATION—The Northwest Jersey Association of Family and Consumer Sciences will hold the fall meeting at the College of St. Elizabeth at 6:30 p.m. Tickets \$15.00. For reservations call 908-654-9854.

MAHWAH—Liz McAllister, anti-nuclear spokesperson, will speak at Ramapo College at 6:30 p.m. at Friends Hall. For more info call Patricia Hunt-Parry at 201-529-7432.

FRIDAY, OCTOBER 11
WAYNE—"Psychology Issues in Caring for Older Adults" will run from 8:30 a.m. to 3:45 p.m. in the Student Center Ballroom at William Paterson College. For more info call 201-595-2436.

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 12
PLAINFIELD—Storytime with Jan Sudd at 11 a.m. at Literacy Volunteers of America from 7 to 9 p.m. For more info call 908-757-1111.

NEWARK—Waris Cultural Research and Development Center presents "A Dialogue to Plan and Prepare for the 21st Century" featuring Imam W. Deen Mohammed, Ada Maria Isasi Diaz, Ph.D., Lydia Davis-Barrett, Akbar Muhammad, Ph.D. at 1:00 p.m. at New Jersey Institute of Technology's Hazel Ballroom. Tickets: \$20.00. For more info call 201-373-3333.

ROSELLE/ELIZABETH—The Arc of Union County will be sponsoring a Walk-A-Thon at Waninko Park. For more info call 908-754-7326.

OCTOBER 12 & 13
BELVIDERE—Family Harvest Festival to be held at Matrazza Farms, Home of Four Sisters Winery from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. For more info call 908-475-3872.

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 26
NORTH PLAINFIELD—Make your own costume and join the fun for Fabric Land's 10th Annual Halloween Contest, \$1000 in prizes. For more info call 908-232-4551.

OCTOBER 29
PALMFIELD—A Voter's Workshop at 10:00 p.m. For more info call 908-753-3506.

Calendar listings should be sent two weeks in advance to ensure publication

Zimmer and Torricelli face off



Emmy Award-winning anchor, Steve Aduhato (c) is pictured with rival Senate candidates Robert Torricelli (l) and Richard Zimmer (R, right). The Congressmen met in transit after a taping of one-on-one interviews for Caucus of New Jersey's upcoming series, *Democracy Works*. This multi-part coverage of the 1996 elections will examine New Jersey's hotly contested U.S. Senate race beginning with two half-hour special identified *The Men Who Would Be Senator* and *U.S. Senate Candidates Up Close* which will air back-to-back on Channel 13 WNET on Saturday, October 12 at 12:30 p.m. Torricelli and Zimmer also take part in a face-to-face dialogue with citizens from across the state in NJ Focus Group: Voters Speak Out which airs on Sunday, October 13 on Channel 13 at 6 p.m.

Alers completes job readiness program

NEWARK—Marta Alers of Newark recently graduated from the Job Readiness program at The First Occupational Center of New Jersey. The Job Readiness program is designed to provide work experience and counseling for ATDC (Add to Families with Dependent Children) recipients to ensure a successful transition from welfare to work.



Tune in to the Dialogue On Diversity

TRENTON—Former Governor Tom Kean, U.S. Senator Bill Bradley and journalist Reggie Harris will engage 300 New Jersey students in a frank discussion of the sensitive issues of race and intergroup relations in an NJN special, *Dialogue on Diversity*, airing Sunday, October 13, at 10 p.m.

Jersey high school and college students will interact with a distinguished panel representing government, the media, the legal profession and education to challenge assumptions about race and explore positive ways people can productively discuss fundamental social issues that touch on race and class.

Santiago to chair Essex and West Hudson



NEWARK—Ramona A. Santiago, Deputy Mayor City of Newark has been named Honorary Chair of the 1996-1997 Campaign Essex and West Hudson Public Employees Charitable Campaign (PECC). As Honorary Chair, Deputy Mayor Ramona Santiago will be responsible for developing the campaign giving leadership, obtain campaign endorsements, promote the campaign's activities, and be the spokes person for the campaign.

Domestic violence

Continued from page A-1

passed the Domestic Violence Act, protecting anyone 18 years of age or older, or an emancipated minor subjected to domestic violence. According to the law someone is considered a victim of domestic violence if they have experienced:

- ✓ Beatings or physical attacks, such as, kicking, slapping, punching, or hair pulling;
- ✓ Threats that make one fear serious injury or death to oneself or children;
- ✓ Unlawful removal of children from one's custody or home;
- ✓ Imprisonment within one's own home or at another location;

✓ Forced sexual contact or rape under threats of harm;

- ✓ Enthusiasm or alarm because of lewd or shocking behavior;
- ✓ Damage to personal property;
- ✓ Forced entry into home;
- ✓ Threats with a weapon such as a gun or knife;
- ✓ Repeated verbal humiliation and attacks.

Without effective intervention, domestic violence can and does escalate in severity and lead to death. Society is working to prevent that by creating programs, funding and legislation, and so that victims can be heard, supported and helped.

CIA crack link time line

Continued from page A-1

CIA to buy weapons in US.

February: Raids stemming from frogman arrests find cocaine, cash, and weapons' catalogs in Zavala's apartment. Nicaraguan newspaper identifies people arrested in frogman case as former Somoza supporters selling cocaine for the Contras.

June: Contra officials meet with Colombian drug trafficker George Morales in Miami to arrange weapons shipment.

1984
Ross and Blandon are selling 100 kilos of Meneses' cocaine a week in Los Angeles. The drug gangs who distribute their cocaine begin buying assault weapons and communications gear from Blandon and his associates.

June: Meneses hosts dinners for FDN leaders in San Francisco.

October: Justice Department returns \$36,000 in cash seized in San Francisco from Contra cocaine dealer. Congress cuts off all funding for Contras eight days later.

November: San Francisco FDN official and a Meneses nephew arrested on cocaine charges.

1985
June: Contra leader Adolfo Calero comes to San Francisco and arranges weapons purchase with Lt. Col. Oliver North's field representative, Roy Owen.

September: San Francisco Contra official arrested in cocaine sting says Meneses is dealing drugs and arms for the Contras.

October: DEA agents assigned to El Salvador gets reports of drug smuggling to El Salvador military air base.

November: Norwin Meneses moves to Costa Rica.

1986
January: Costa Rican shrimp company ordered by drug dealers gets U.S. State Department contract to deliver aid to Contras.

June: Costa Rican drug dealer linked to Meneses is convicted of drug charges. Evidence includes tapes of discussions with Contra cocaine dealer.

August: Congress approves \$100 million in aid to the Contras. Also approves new cocaine laws that punish crack offenders more severely than powder dealers.

October: Danilo Blandon's house and business in Rialto are raided.

November: Iran-Contra scandal breaks.

December: Blandon applies for permanent U.S. residency.

1987
January: Freeway Rick Task Force formed to shut down Rick Ross' crack operation in Los Angeles.

February: Blandon moves to Miami and "retires" from drug business. Buys several businesses in partnership with ex-Nicaraguan army general and an FDN lawyer.

April: Freeway Rick Task Force nearly catches Ross in an alley. Ross moves to Cincinnati.

November: George Bush elected President.

1988
March: Truce signed between Nicaraguan government and the Contras ending the civil war.

September: New Mexican police find nine kilos of cocaine on a Cincinnati-bound Greyhound and link it to Ross.

October: Federal officials begin Operation Big Spender, an investigation into corruption by L.A. narcotics police.

1989
Blandon returns to California and begins dealing cocaine in the Bay Area, Los Angeles and San Diego. The number of blacks charged with crack-related offenses soars.

February: Meneses secretly indicted by San Francisco grand jury for acts committed in 1984 and 1985, but is never arrested or punished.

June: Rick Ross indicted on cocaine charges in Cincinnati.

November: Ross arrested in Los Angeles.

1990
February: Sandinistas voted from office in Nicaraguan presidential elections. U.S.-backed candidate wins.

March: DEA is told by informant that Blandon plans to move back to Nicaragua "due to the favorable political climate."

June: Blandon's car rental agency files for bankruptcy.

1991
February: Ross is sentenced to 10 years in prison for his Midwestern drug operations.

August: DEA investigation of Blandon is "compromised." A few days later, Blandon and an associate are stopped at Mexican border with more than \$100,000 in undeclared travelers checks. Blandon is released.

November: Meneses and others are arrested in Nicaragua, on cocaine conspiracy charges.

December: Blandon and others arrested in El Segundo on conspiracy and drug money charges but charges are dropped. Ross testifies in federal corruption trial of some of the police officers who once pursued him.

1992
May: Blandon and wife arrested and jailed on cocaine conspiracy charges in San Diego.

October: Blandon signs plea agreement with government.

November: Meneses convicted of drug charges in Nicaragua and sentenced to 30 years in jail, later reduced to 12.

George Bush loses bid for re-election.

December: Blandon sentenced to 48 months in jail.

1993
Blacks are being sentenced to prison for crack charges in record numbers.

1994
September: Blandon is released from prison, and begins work as DEA informant.

October: Blandon and Ross discuss doing a cocaine deal.

1995
March: Ross arrested by DEA agents in sting set up by Blandon.

May: Blandon's \$40,000 reward from U.S. government for his work in Ross sting.

1996
After studies show black cocaine dealers get longer sentences than whites, U.S. Sentencing Commission urges reduction of crack sentences but Congress and President Clinton refuse. Blandon is free and living in Managua. During the summer, Meneses becomes eligible for release, after serving five years.

March: Ross convicted of cocaine trafficking.

"ON NOV. 5TH, I'M VOTING FOR MY MOTHER."



And a vote for Democrats is your best chance to make sure she doesn't lose the things she's worked so hard for.

And you can bet those benefits *won't* continue if the New Gingrich Republicans have their way, continuing to cut, slash and eliminate programs we've worked hard for. They want to roll back Affirmative Action and put assault weapons back on the streets.

You have the power to stop them.

The Democratic Party is *there*, fighting for the things that are important to families, protecting our values. Over 10 million new jobs • Increased the minimum wage • Protected the Health Care of millions • Made Student Loans for college more

affordable • Cut Taxes for 15 million working families • Cut the cost of buying a home • Signed the toughest, smartest Crime Bill ever.

Democrats are dealing with the hard issues. But they can't continue to do it without your vote.

On Nov. 5th, vote for the people who care about you.

VOTE
DEMOCRATIC
IT'S TOO IMPORTANT NOT TO.

Paid for by the New Jersey Democratic Party

NATION

National News at a Glance

HOWARD UNIVERSITY STUDENTS REGISTER CLASSMATES TO VOTE

The Howard University Student Association (HUSA) registered 1,637 students to vote during the 26th Annual Congressional Black Caucus Foundation Legislative Weekend, Sept. 13 to 15. The effort was aimed at achieving 100 percent voter registration among members of the eligible student body and to increase the overall voter registration percentage of Black youth between the age of 18-24, according to officials. "We want to help students understand their obligation to vote. Once students are politically educated and empowered, they will likely understand the importance of voting as a link to the larger Black community in particular, and to the nation in general," HUSA president, Vincent C. Jacques II explained.

—WASHINGTON, DC

WOMEN'S HEALTH: STILL A LONG WAY TO GO

One out of 10 women do not have a regular physician, and nearly one out of six women under 65 are uninsured, according to Women's Health: The Commonwealth Fund Survey, by Marilyn M. Falk and Karen Scott Collins (eds.). The analysis, which is based on the 1993 Commonwealth Fund Survey, also found that there is a particularly low use of preventive care by minority women, who often face daunting financial and social barriers to obtaining health care. Women often keep silent about depression and domestic violence, and physician detection of symptoms associated with these problems is uncommon, it stated. Finally, poverty disproportionately affects women and their children. Women make up one-third of the under-age-65 population living on limited incomes in this country; their children account for 45 percent. Medicaid proved to be a vital safety net for poor mothers and children, the study found.

—WASHINGTON, DC

BLACK SCHOLARS LEAVING CALIFORNIA

Feeling unwanted, many of California's most promising black high school graduates are opting for an out-of-state college education, largely because of the "incendiary rhetoric and mean-spiritedness" behind the campaign to pass Proposition 209, according to a local civil rights leader. The measure disposes of affirmative action guidelines, rules and regulations in all state employment, state contracts and state higher education matters. Ceres King, III, president of the Congress of Racial Equality of California, and a prominent Los Angeles businessman, said young blacks are willing to pay higher tuition "just to get out of California where they feel they are not wanted." He called the measure a "sinister ruse whose only purpose is to foam the mouths of California's white citizens who are already paranoid over the state's rapidly growing minority population." —CALIFORNIA

SOUTH AFRICA HONORS UNSUNG HERO

Many Africans are familiar with "Nkosi Sikelele Afrika" (God Bless Africa), the national anthem of Namibia, South Africa, Tanzania, Zambia and at one time, Zimbabwe. Few, however, have heard of its composer, Enoch Sontonga. Even in South Africa, the late Methodist preacher had been largely forgotten until recently, when he was posthumously awarded the Cold Order of Meritorious Service by President Nelson Mandela at a graveside ceremony. Born in Uitenhage, Eastern Cape in 1873, Sontonga died at the age of 32, after penning a song that calls upon God to bless and uplift the African continent. That song became a rallying point for African nationalism and was dubbed the continental anthem by Pan-Africanists. Banned under the apartheid system, the hymn became synonymous with the black nationalist struggle. It was heard at Black rallies, funerals and church services and the African National Congress (ANC) adopted it as its theme song.

—SOUTH AFRICA

'96 election critical for black colleges and universities

by DNC National
Chairman Don Fowler

On September 23, voter registration drives and rallies took place on over fifty college campuses during Historically Black College and University (HBCU) Day. If they didn't participate in this drive, black students should register to vote soon because the upcoming elections for President and control of the Congress will have a greater impact on their futures than any election in their lifetime.

The stakes are extraordinarily high and the outcome will determine if thousands of blacks even have the chance to attend college, whether many of those presently enrolled have an opportunity to remain, and what kinds of economic opportunities are available for those who graduate.

At the Republican National Convention, GOP nominee Bob Dole touted himself as a "bridge to the past." If he wins, the future may be eerily similar to the not-too-distant-past when attending college was a goal only a few blacks could realistically hope to achieve. For starters, a Dole victory, and the return of Georgia's Newt Gingrich and Mississippi's Trent Lott, as Speaker of the House and Senate Majority Leader, will mean the abso-

lute end of all affirmative action programs, which are vital to continued minority representation on many campuses across the country.

Dole, Gingrich, and Lott would act swiftly to enact a Bill that Dole sponsored while still in the Senate, which would make all affirmative action programs illegal in education, contracting and employment.

In contrast, at the Democratic National Convention President Clinton articulated his vision to build a "bridge to the future." His vision includes an America where diversity is valued as a source of strength. That is why, despite tremendous political pressures to abandon affirmative action, Clinton made a courageous decision to "mend it, not end it."

But President Clinton's record on this issue goes beyond successfully defending affirmative action from Republican attacks. Clinton has appointed more black federal judges than all of his predecessors combined. He has appointed the most diverse Cabinet in our nation's history. Altogether, 14 percent of Clinton's appointees are blacks, setting a powerful example for the federal Government, and the private sector of how to provide equal opportunities for all Americans regardless of race, gender, or ethnicity.

Most important, if President Clinton is re-elected he will have the opportunity to appoint two or more Justices to the U.S. Supreme Court and reverse the extremist assault on the rights of blacks and other minorities, which many have likened to a second post Reconstruction era.

The most critical aspect of the President's bridge to the 21st Century, as he stated at the Democratic National Convention, is to give "every single American who wants it the chance to go to college." The President's agenda includes a \$1,500 tuition tax credit for the first two years

of college, a \$10,000 tax deduction for college tuition costs for working families after that, and IRA accounts where families can save money for college tax-free and withdraw it without penalty—all within the framework of his balanced budget proposal.

During his first term, even with the Republican Congress, President Clinton has managed to significantly increase funding for Historically Black Colleges and Universities—by nearly \$250 million, or almost 25 percent, since fiscal year 1992. He has increased funding by nearly \$800 million for Head Start, a program which gives many

black youth the start they need to even have a chance to go to college.

While President Clinton's agenda seeks to expand educational opportunities, Dole's radical 15 percent income tax cut can only come at the expense of education, Medicare, Medicaid and the environment.

In the final analysis, black college students, like the rest of the nation, must choose between Bill Clinton's "bridge to the future" or Bob Dole's "bridge to the past." For black students especially, it is difficult to imagine how the stakes could be any higher.

NMBC leads second trade mission to South Africa

NEW YORK—For the second time this year, the National Minority Business Council (NMBC) will be leading a trade mission to Johannesburg, South Africa.

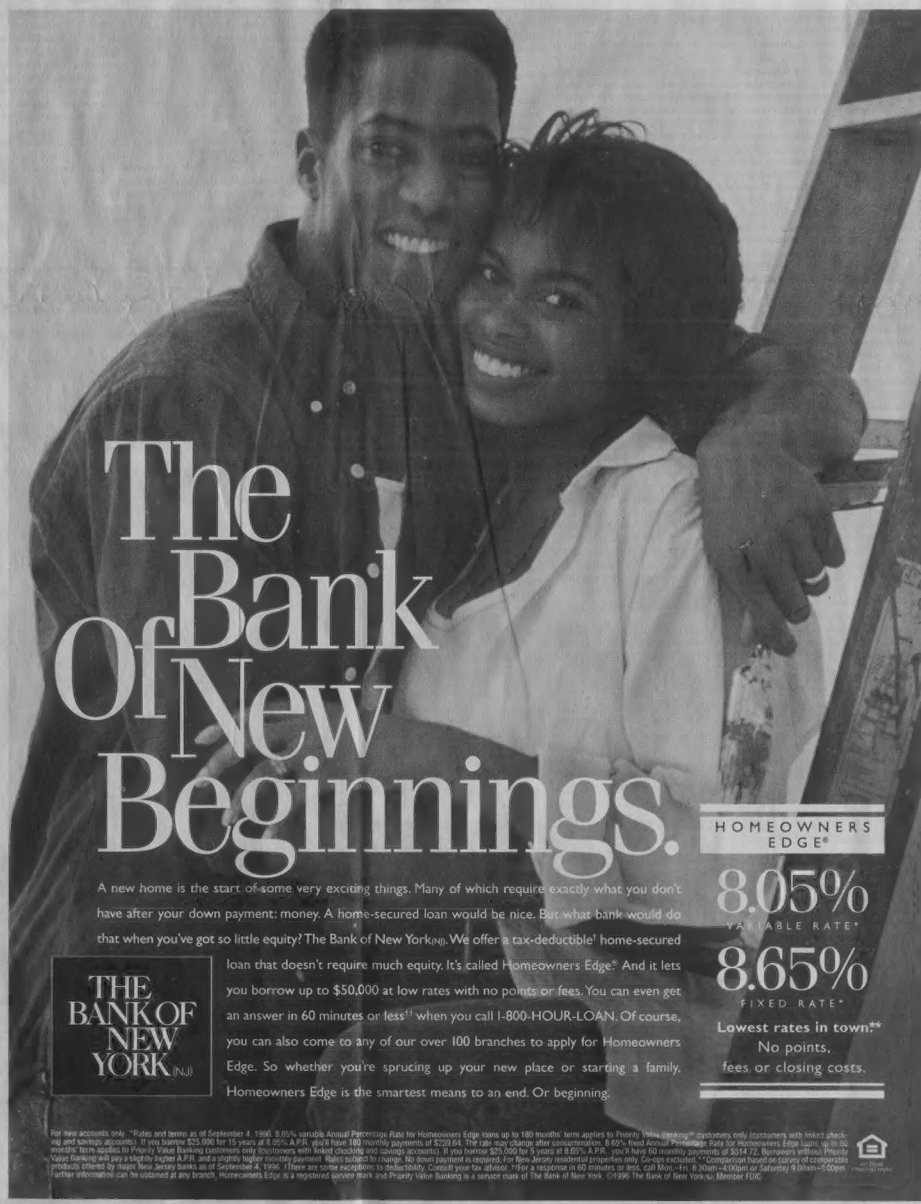
The trade mission will take place from October 11 to October 20, and is being dedicated in memory of the late Commerce Secretary, Ronald H. Brown.

Secretary Brown was a staunch supporter of the economic development and expansion of Africa as a viable trading partner in the global economy.

The first mission in March, took 18 business people to South Africa for nine days to meet with South African business counterparts and government officials.

Lake with the first trade mission, this one will also focus on matchmaking between U.S. and South African companies, arranged by the Small Business Development Corporation in South Africa, in conjunction with the NMBC.

For further information contact Kathryn Leary, at the NMBC, 212-573-2385.



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EDITORIAL

'Thou Shall Not Kill'

The Nation's Highest Court is arguing whether or not it is constitutionally legal for the "Dr. Jack Kervorkian" of the nation to be a competent, but terminally-ill and chronically suffering patient with ending their lives a.k.a. Euthanasia. This right to "life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness" issue promises to be as controversial as abortion. If you factor in the moral artery of this country which transports the blood of a belief in a higher being—God, Allah, Jehovah, Buddha, etc.—and the proof of people rebelling from terminal illnesses and intolerable suffering, then the U.S. Supreme Court is really deciding on the mutual religious law *Thou Shall Not Kill*. This religious law, almost without argument, influenced the laws regarding human rights contained in the United States Constitution.

Though it may be argued that a physician is only complying with a patient's unwritten "right to die," the doctor is not really stepping back, letting nature take its course. This is more analogous to someone giving a loaded gun to a person he/she knows wants to commit suicide or a homicide. Of course, if this was the case, the gun provider could be convicted as a murderer even if it is suicide.

Euthanasia could even lead to profit-making from health insurance companies, physicians, and potential beneficiaries. We must also be careful not to confuse Euthanasia with patients or their family members refusing or discontinuing life support mechanisms. There is an important difference. The difference is that doctors are not deliberately giving patients medicine to the because that patient wishes to do so. Ultimately, that decision should be left between the patient and God. Doctors should continue to do their job: Heal the sick as much as medically possible. Unless, of course, the Supreme Court decides God, as used in the U.S. Constitution and our moral fabric, is Dr. Jack Kervorkian.

OPINION

Congressional Black Caucus 'backslides' on civil rights

by Harry C. Alford

The Seventh Anniversary of *Emancipation* has left the stands and it reveals something very alarming. Our elected Congressional leaders whom we have sent to Capitol Hill to put up the good fight for our interests have a noticeable number of breaking rails from the "straight and narrow." I have never been one who give much credit to the effectiveness of this group of individuals but the new review on the civil rights voting record of the CBC starts to give me much concern.

First, let's give praise to those black congressional leaders who received an "A" from *Emancipation* for their voting record during the current 104th Congressional Session: **Representatives Hilliard Dellums, Waters, Lewis, McKinney, Jackson, Collins (C), Cummings, Conyers, Collins (B), Clay, Payne, Owens, Rangel, Clayton, Watt, Stokes, Fattah, and Scott.** These 19 heroes, however, on behalf of

all who have come before us in the fight for our freedom. Martin Luther King is looking down on you with a smile.

Now let us look at the 22 others, the majority, and measure the extent of their deviation: (Eleanor Holmes Norton cannot vote in Congress and is not included in this survey)

"B's"—Dixon, Brown, Meek, Hastings, Fields, Meek, Thompson, Johnson
"C's"—Rush, Jefferson, Wynn, Flake, Towns, Clyburn, Ford, Jackson-Lee
"D's"—Tucker, Reynolds, Moseley-Braun
"F's"—Franks, Bishop, Watts
Have the lobbyists gotten to our people too? Certainly, it appears that some of the \$800 million that will be spent by lobbyists this year in Washington, DC has filtered into some uncommon ground and has had an effect to the detriment of 32 million black folk.

Now, of course, Republicans

Franks and Watts wear this "F" distinction with honor. They come from majority white districts and they know how to please their bosses. One thing to their credit is that they are consistent and we can certainly predict where they are going to fall when the "chips" are down. The other scores bear serious watching because the predictability just is not there. How can Congressmen from a predominantly minority district come up short on civil rights? Why do they march to a different drummer? My brother and sisters we must hold them accountable.

I never thought much of Kweisi Mfume on black business issues and it appears that the new head of the NAACP is a "B" scorer on civil rights. What can we expect from this organization that in the future—not as much as when Rev. Ben Chavis was the driving agenda.

One thing congressional representatives will do when they want to vote a way that will bring them heat from their constituents is to simply not vote.

This is like us who are registered to vote but don't—it's almost as bad as a negative vote. Some of our elected officials seem to have mastered this.

Emancipation evaluated the criteria via 10 particular bills that related to civil rights issues. The two most popular bills were crack cocaine sentencing and welfare reform. Which of our Congressional leaders voted against those issues?

Crack Cocaine Sentencing—Franks, Tucker, McKinney, Fields and Rangel did not vote.

Welfare Reform—Franks, Bishop, Wynn and Watts. Ford did not vote.

As Marvin Gaye once said, "What's going on? People who claim to be our student leaders are not 'locking step' and some seem to often 'break bread' at times when we really need them. It is time to voice outrage.

Harry C. Alford is president and CEO of the National Black Chamber of Commerce, Inc. in Washington, DC.

School reform focused on the wrong things

Dear Editor:

How will the expenditure of \$33.9 million change the somber reality of Plainfield's school system? A recent year study, "Beyond the Classroom: Why School Reform Has Failed and What Parents Need to Know (Simon & Schuster), surveyed 20,000 students in 9th to 12th grade and their families for one year. The finding: "The school reform movement has been focusing on the wrong things. The problem isn't the schools; it's the disengagement of parents and a peer culture that demands high academic performance."

In short, the study finds parents and peers are most crucial influences on student's academic performance. Further, Dr. Steinberg, author of the study, concluded, "No curriculum overhaul, no instructional innovation, no change in school organization or no tightening of standards, no rethinking of teacher training or compensation will succeed if students do not come to school interested in and committed to learning."

If this study mirrors reality, Plainfield's study should show the expenditure of \$33.9 million change the somber reality about the Plainfield school system: Only 29.5 percent of Plainfield's students pass the high school proficiency test; in surrounding communities it is 75 percent to 90 percent. The percentage of students that drop out of Plainfield High School is 14 percent while surrounding school districts the drop out rate is 0 percent to 3 percent.

The Superintendent of Plainfield Schools has this to say about these statistics: "We need to in very fundamental ways, change our schools so that we're responsive to the needs of the kids. We have not incorporated the best practices available to raise the level of student achievement. All of the achievement issues, the test scores, belong to the district." That's right, in his own words, I infer that the expenditure of \$33.9 million dollars is not the solution to improving poor academic performance. This report and the Superintendent of Plainfield's schools agree: a more fundamental change must occur if educational success is to occur.

Further, not only will the expenditure of \$33.9 million not produce educational excellence in Plainfield, but it will cost the tax payers much more than the \$60.9 million increase in real estate taxes alleged by the Superintendent of Schools and Plainfield's Education Coalition. Why? We're losing over \$2,000,000 to \$3,000,000 per year in tax rebates because of declining property values. When that happens taxes go up or services are cut. With a decline in rebates and little hope of bringing any into this community—until the conditions that drive rebates away from the city are dealt with—our taxes are going up and the expenditure of \$33.9 million is like adding fuel to a fire—that is already out of control.

To meet the need for more classrooms because of overcrowding and the need for state of the art technology, what alternatives to spending \$33.9 million are being considered? For example, throughout the United States cities faced with overcrowding and lack of money are turning to year-round schooling. It can be found as far away as Los Angeles, CA and as near as Trenton, NJ. Even New York City is exploring year-round schooling as a means to deal with its bulging school age population. Year-round schooling is a viable alternative to building new schools. Secondly, to help create a computer literate society, corporations like AT&T are developing partnerships with schools systems throughout central New Jersey; at little or no cost to the school districts, the tools of technology are being brought to our children.

Why do Plainfield's educational leaders believe that the expenditure of \$33.9 million should be the corner stone of the City's school reform plan? The answer is complex, but I'll keep it simple. It is easy to spend somebody else's money, and the spending of money has always given the illusion of change and progress. However, the ramifications of the tax-payers approving this \$33.9 million referendum are crystal clear.

Firstly, educational excellence, passionately wanted for our children, will not result with the expenditure of this money. For it is families and peers that determine educational excellence not brick and mortar. Secondly, upwardly mobile families who are crucial to a viable school system will have another reason, in addition to unacceptable social conditions in our schools, to abandoned the school system and ultimately the community—higher taxes.

William H. Hefield
Plainfield

Who's been injecting crack into our inner-cities?

by William Reed

For over a decade, leading spokespeople among African Americans have been saying that the cocaine epidemic in our inner-cities was being caused by some external source. "We don't own any boats, so how does it (cocaine) get into our neighborhoods?" is a question that's been posed by Jesse Jackson, Congressman Charles Rangel and others.

Now, it seems the supplier of this scourge in our communities could be our own government. If Congress is forced to probe the Contra cocaine forces of past U.S. government officials may come to light as having been involved in this enterprise.

First, it's important to note some fundamental issues about the world economy. Whether we realize it or not, the world economy has become an integral factor in our daily lives. The world economy is made up of all those interactions among people, businesses, and governments that cross international borders, even the illegal ones.

If we buy drugs, we become part of the world economy. Government leaders also use the world economy to achieve specific political objectives, such as employing economic sanctions against Nigeria and Libya. But, basically what ever crosses an international border—whether goods, services, or transfers of funds—is part of the world economy.

Illegal drug distribution is America's largest industry and second only to the gaming industry in the world's economy. Our government is famous for accusing other governments, such as Nigeria, as being participants in drug trafficking. But, did our government have any involvement in a San Francisco Bay Area drug ring selling tons of cocaine to a black gang, led by "Freeway" Ricky Ross, during the 1980s and funneling the illegal profits to Nicaragua's Contras? It is public record that the Contras were mobilized and financed by the Central Intelligence Agency in the 1980s in an unsuccessful attempt to overthrow Nicaragua's socialist government.

Currently, Los Angeles Congressman Maxine Waters is demanding hearings into the role of Nicaraguan Contras in flooding South-central Los Angeles, and cities all across America, with crack cocaine in the 1980s. Rep.

Waters has written to Congress and government officials demanding a far-reaching probe of the Contra crack allegations.

"As someone who has seen how the crack cocaine trade has devastated the south-central community, I cannot exaggerate my feelings of dismay that my own government may have played a part in the origins and history of this problem," she wrote.

Waters has asked Attorney General Janet Reno that the files on Norwin Meneses, Daniel Blandon, and Ricky Ross be turned over, saying, "The impact and the implications of the Meneses/Blandon/Ross Contra CIA crack cocaine connection cannot be understated. We all have an obligation to get to the bottom of the origin, development, and implementation of this seedy enterprise."

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City News is published weekly by
City News Publishing Company
P.O. Box 1774, Lake North Ave.
Plainfield, NJ 07060
Phone 908-754-3400, Fax 908-753-1036

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YOUTHBEAT

Kids Kalendar

OCTOBER 11-13

NEW YORK—The New Victory Theater invites children ages 6 and up to step into the world of dance with Taylor 2. There will be performances and brief discussions.

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 19

NEWARK—Metropolitan Baptist Church presents the Second Annual Youth Network Conference from 8:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. For more info call MEM at 201-481-6650.

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 20

NEWARK—The Children's Sabbath. Theme: Play, Speak Out, and Act. For more info call MEM at 201-481-6650.

THRU OCTOBER 22

COLTSNECK—The Monmouth County Park System invites parents and their kids 2 1/2 to 5 1/2 to participate in "Wee Two" at Dorbrook Activity Center from 2:30 to 3:15 p.m. For more info call 908-842-4000.

MONMOUTH CO.—The Monmouth County Park System invites parents and their youngsters ages 2 1/2 to 5 1/2 to participate in "Wee Two." Cost: \$34.00 per pair. For more info call 908-842-4000.

THRU OCTOBER 30

MIDDLETOWN—The Monmouth County Park System is offering its parent/child (2 to 3 years) program "Morning Song," at Telum Park Holland Activity Center from 9 to 9:45 a.m. For more info call 908-842-4000.

THRU OCTOBER 31

COLTSNECK—The Monmouth County Park System is offering its parent/child (2 to 3 years) program "Morning Song," at Dorbrook Activity Center from 11 to 11:45 a.m. For more info call 908-842-4000.

THRU OCTOBER 24

COLTSNECK—Monmouth County Park System schedules "I'm a Big Kid Now!" for kids 3- to 5 years old on Tuesdays and Thursdays at Dorbrook Activity Center. For more info call 908-219-9484.

THRU OCTOBER 26

LINCROFT—The Monmouth County Park System is offering its parent/child (2 to 3 years) program "Morning Song," at Thompson Park from 9:30 to 10:15 a.m. For more info call 908-842-4000.

BOOK IT! continues to encourage children to read

DALLAS, TX—BOOK IT!, the national reading incentive program sponsored by Pizza Hut, begins its 12th year this month with an enrollment of 22 million kids in 96,000 classrooms across the country.

The annual five-month reading incentive program motivates children to read more with three powerful incentives: pizza, praise and recognition. Each year, the popularity of the program has grown as more principals

and teachers use BOOK IT! as a free resource to develop a lifelong love of reading in children.

"As the program enters its twelfth year, BOOK IT! continues to have a tremendous positive impact on elementary students across the country," said Eunice Ellis, director of the BOOK IT! program. "The fact that the program has grown from 5 million students to more than 22 million students is evidence of its popularity and effective-

ness, and to Pizza Hut's commitment to the young people of America."

Each year, BOOK IT! incorporates an optional theme for teachers to use to engage students and encourage them in their reading habits. This year's theme features a reading expedition to learn about biodiversity through the habitats of five endangered animals—the peregrine falcon, gray wolf, desert tortoise, Tooth Cave spider and Florida manatee.

Scholarships available for accounting students

ROSELAND—Any sophomore or junior at a 2 or 4-year New Jersey college majoring in accounting can compete for scholarships by entering the Accounting Manuscript Contest co-sponsored by The New Jersey Society of Certified Public Accountants (NJSCPA) and New Jersey Business magazine.

"CPAs—Helping Today's Businesses Meet Tomorrow's Challenges" is the topic of the contest. Essays are not to exceed 1,000 words in length and will be evaluated by a panel of judges.

The first place winner will receive a \$1,500 award and have his/her manuscript published in New Jersey Business

magazine. Up to three additional winners will receive awards of \$500 each for honorable mention.

February 1, 1997 is the deadline for all submissions. For entry forms, contact the Accounting Department Chairperson at any New Jersey college or call the NJSCPA office, 201-226-4494 ext. 225.

1996 Union County Teen Arts Exhibit tours county

ELIZABETH—The Union County TEEN ARTS Touring Exhibit will be on display at Exxon Chemical Company in Linden through October 23.

The exhibit consists of 26 pieces of art selected from the 513 visual art works shown at the 1996 Union County TEEN ARTS Festival held in March at Union County College.

If you have no confidence in self you are twice defeated in the race of life. With confidence, you have won even before you have started.

—Marcus Garvey

Arts High students paint a piece of history



An Arts High student is deep in concentration as she completes a drawing. Photo by Terrence Dixon

NEWARK—Fine arts students from Arts High School in Newark recently took their paint brushes, paints and easels to the North Ward in an effort to capture the glory of the newly

rehabilitated turn-of-the-century historic limestone row houses. The students were participants of the dedication ceremony held on September 26.

The buildings, dating back to 1893, are located at 134-148 Broad Street and were recently placed on the National Register of Historic Places by the State's Department of Interior. They are unique to Newark and the state because of their architectural style.

The homes are part of a restoration project sponsored by the St. James Community Development Corporation (CDC) as affordable housing units for 30 families. Six units are reserved for recently homeless families. The 30 units situated in five attached buildings consists of 24-two bedroom, 5-three bedroom, and 1-four bedroom apartments.

You can be a Science Pen-Pal

BOSTON, MA—Science-By-Mail, a national pen-pal mentor program that pairs children in grades 4 through 9 with scientists, is accepting applications for the 1996-97 program year.

This program was developed at the Museum of Science in Boston, is designed to simulate and challenge children in different fields of science. This year's topics are "Simple Machines" and "Flight."

During the course of the school year, members will receive these two hands-on activity packets which contain instruction and materials to perform a variety of activities, ending with a "Big Challenge."

As the children work on their Science-By-Mail activities, they will correspond with their scientist pen-pal, who offers ideas, advice, and encouragement.

The program is designed to be open-ended and non-competitive, allowing children to work at their own level of ability and interest. Working together, the children and scientists promote communication and interaction as an important learning tool. This year, more than 28,500 children and over 1,500 volunteer scientists from across the country and around the world are participating in Science-By-Mail.

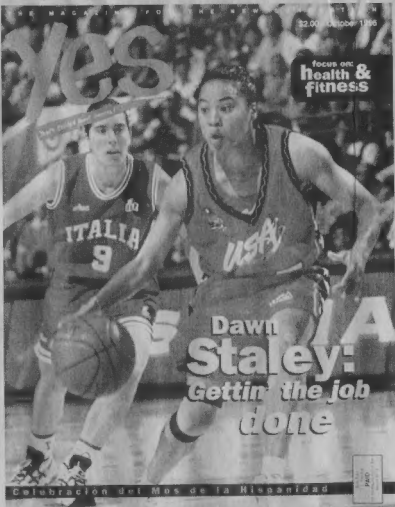
Deadline for applications is October 15. Members may register with their schools, families, neighborhood groups, scouts or other clubs, or as part of home schooling. For more information, call 1-800-729-3300, or email sbm@ALM.org.

The Real Moby Dick



NEW YORK—NATURE launches its 15th anniversary season by tracking one of the sea's most fabled and mysterious creatures—the Whale—in the premier of *Sperm Whales: The Real Moby Dick*. The special will air on Sunday, October 13 at 8 p.m. (ET) on PBS. Combining the latest in tracking technology with good human persistence, the episode uncovers a host of surprises about the mammal that turned the tables on Captain Ahab. Photo by Flip Nicklin.

YES goes on the court with Olympian Dawn Staley



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LIFESTYLES

Health Calendar

THRU OCTOBER

UNION COUNTY—The American Red Cross will sponsor blood drives throughout the county. For more info call 908-756-6414.

OCTOBER 18, 19

FAIRFIELD—Cerebral Palsy of North Jersey will hold a 24-hour conference on young children with Autism presented by Dr. Barry M. Pritzant at Radisson Hotel in Fairfield, New Jersey. Call CPNJ at 201-674-1150.

OCTOBER 21 THRU 28

ELIZABETH—The Vining Nurse and Health Services will offer flu program. For more info call 908-352-1200 ext. 209/269.

THRU OCTOBER & NOVEMBER

UNION CO.—Tri-County VNA Flu Vaccination Program will take place at 25 cities throughout the county. For locations and dates call Mary Fedorick at 908-352-6594 ext. 209.

NEWARK—The Newark Flu Program at locations throughout the city will offer flu shots daily from 10 a.m. to 12 noon. For locations, call James Griffin at 201-733-3809.

THURSDAY, OCTOBER 10

BELLE MEAD—The Carrier Foundation is sponsoring a Depression and Anxiety Screening from 4 to 8 p.m. Pre-registration is suggested. For more info call 908-281-1518.

FREEHOLD—The Carrier Center for Counseling is sponsoring a Depression and Anxiety Screening from 4 to 8 p.m. Pre-registration is suggested. For more info call 908-760-0707.

HAMILTON—The Carrier Center for Counseling is sponsoring a Depression and Anxiety Screening from 4 to 8 p.m. Pre-registration is suggested. For more info call 908-585-8888.

TOMS RIVER—The Carrier Center for Counseling is sponsoring a Depression and Anxiety Screening from 4 to 8 p.m. Pre-registration is suggested. For more info call 908-240-2200.

It's time to get those Flu vaccines

UNION—Influenza has caused more than 20,000 deaths during 10 different epidemics from 1972 to 1991, according to the American Lung Association. People age 65 and older, health care workers and people with chronic health conditions are prime candidates for annual flu shots.

The flu causes damage to the lining of the respiratory tract of the lungs. However, tissues normally heal in a short time. Flu symptoms include fever, appetite loss, weakness, sore throat, dry cough, nausea, chills and aching.

Most people stricken with the flu

recover within a week. For people with chronic health problems, especially those with lung problems, the flu can be severe or fatal.

To prevent the flu, make sure you get the current influenza vaccine or flu shot. "The vaccine changes from year to year to accommodate new viral strains. The ideal time to get the vaccine is between October 15, and November 15."

According to the American Lung Association, yearly vaccinations are approximately 75 percent effective in preventing the flu. It also can reduce the flu's severity.

UMDNJ goes on-line

NEWARK—An advanced, federally funded telemedicine system connecting public housing complexes with health care practitioners around the state will be established by the University of Medicine and Dentistry of New Jersey (UMDNJ) to improve access to health care for inner-city residents.

The system, which will initially link housing complexes in Newark and Camden to five health care sites, is being funded through a \$677,000 grant awarded to UMDNJ by the U.S. Department of Commerce's National Telecommunications Information Administration.

The system will allow residents to discuss their health conditions with physicians and other practitioners, whose offices have been outfitted with desktop telemedicine equipment, from specially outfitted medical "kiosks"

located at the housing developments.

The kiosks also will allow individuals to access information on health care topics and to participate in real-time health education seminars and classes. All the kiosks services are free and provided in English and Spanish.

According to Dr. Paul Larson, senior vice president for academic affairs at UMDNJ, the new system would greatly enhance UMDNJ's ability to bring health care services to two of the state's most underserved areas.

The system will be installed over the next 12 months. In addition to the linkage between the health care sites and the housing complexes, the system will be interconnected with UMDNJ's schools, the Newark Public Library, the Cancer Institute of New Jersey and the state's Department of Health and Senior Services.

Teach someone to read

FREEHOLD—Volunteers are needed for the Adult Literacy Training Volunteer Program conducted by the Monmouth County Division of Social Services.

Volunteers should have good

reading and speaking skills and be able to enunciate clearly. Individuals should have an interest in and be willing to teach adults on a one-to-one basis. To volunteer call Diane Lukacs at 908-571-5722.

March of Dimes gives mothers and babies a healthy start



EAST ORANGE—Pictured at a recent March of Dimes grant presentation in East Orange to the Visiting Nurse Association of Essex Valley to help kick off October and Campaign for Healthier Babies Month are (left to right): Mary Jo Yetter, clinical advisor of the Visiting Nurse Association's Nursing Internship Program; Mary Hanna, president and chief executive officer of the Visiting Nurse Association; Patricia Clark, president of Special Effects Public Relations in Newark and chairman of the March of Dimes Community Service Awards; and Ruth Zinn-Byrne, president of Zinn, Graves and Fields, Inc., and a 1996 March of Dimes Community Service Awards honoree. The March of Dimes grant for \$6,500 will help give more mothers and babies in Essex and Hudson County a better chance for a healthy start in life together by helping improve pregnancy outcomes. For more information about March of Dimes grants or the October 17 Community Service Awards, call the North Jersey Chapter at 201-882-0700.

Ethnic press plays a special role in journalism

Promoting community pride, showcasing new business ventures and providing positive role models are all in a day's work for an often overlooked, but nevertheless, important branch of American journalism known as the ethnic press.

Barbara Reed, a professor of journalism at Rutgers in New Brunswick, has been studying the ethnic press for years and has written a new book on the subject entitled *Outsiders in 19th-Century Press History: Multicultural Perspectives*.

"The ethnic press is perhaps best understood as the equivalent of a hometown newspaper for people from a common ethnic background," explains Reed, who teaches courses in various aspects of journalism.

"Ethnic newspapers were established largely because the communities they serve were either ignored or treated negatively by the mainstream press," Reed says. "For example, the black press began in 1827 when black

people who wanted to write about slavery in mainstream newspapers were denied the opportunity to do that and started their own publications."

More ethnic newspapers soon followed for Jewish, Spanish-speaking, Native American, Chinese and other readerships. In each case they provided a place where people could identify, in a very positive sense, with their community and their own group.

Monmouth County shared ride program under review

FREEHOLD—The Board of Chosen Freeholders of Monmouth County is currently reviewing the Shared Ride Program, but statements regarding "subsidies" are premature, according to Freeholder Theodore Naroznick.

Naroznick was responding to an article published in the Asbury Park Press last month which reported that "county officials ordered reduced fares for Shared Ride in 12 coastal towns because the annual budget was being exhausted faster than anticipated."

"Not so," Naroznick stated. "As with any item in the budget that is being expended at a greater rate than anticipated, the Shared Ride Program is currently under review by the Board of Chosen Freeholders."

The program is geared toward helping senior citizens and disabled residents obtain transportation for medical visits, kidney dialysis visits, radiation treatments, transportation to senior centers and nutrition centers, food shopping, educational and other purposes.

The 12 towns are served by the Yellow Cab Co. of Long Branch. Rides for medical visits are available five days a week, transportation to shopping centers is also available.

The Board appropriated \$903,816 for the Shared Ride Program in 1996,

up from \$896,295 in 1995," Naroznick stated.

"The Board will look at ways of effecting savings in the program and then we will look to find monies to continue this important program. As always we will balance the interest of taxpayers with the needs of our senior citizens."

We will make every attempt to assist our senior citizens in providing the best possible transportation so that it impacts positively on their quality of life," the Freeholder added.

Violence in schools

Continued from page A-4

grams that can be used as models for schools to create or utilize for students who need to be taken out of the regular school environment. Parents and/or guardians need to be consulted about these alternative educational plans for disruptive students.

Their involvement and participation in the process should be considered mandatory not optional! "But parents who believe that they can absolve themselves from the responsibility of taking back the control over their unruly disruptive child should be brought back into reality. If you state, 'I can't do anything with my child,' and you're the parent, what do you think a teacher or administrator is supposed to do with them? The cry for help and assistance can be answered, but it must be in consultation and collaboration, not total abandonment."

It's also important that we train our children to behave and act in ways that are acceptable and tolerable in the society at large. If parents allow chil-

dren to act destructively, be offensive, rude and disrespectful in the home environment, they are simply handicapping their child and setting them up for failure and future problems. What you may tolerate, isn't necessarily what other members of society will tolerate, and people need to remember that as they raise their children. Laughing at outlandish language and brat attacks at home, leading children to believe they are being "cute," are problems displayed everywhere in far too many homes.

Everyone must stop trying to place the blame or responsibility for their decisions on someone else's shoulder. We must encourage the teaching and practice of conflict resolution in our learning environments, homes and neighborhoods. The violence on display from 8:30 a.m. to 3 p.m. doesn't start or end at the school doors. Therefore, we must deal with this problem on a 24-hour basis, before and after school hours, if systemic changes are to be made.

Need a mortgage or refinancing on a low to moderate income? The Mighty Hudson can save you thousands of dollars.

Hudson City Savings Bank has a long standing tradition of concern for the people in the communities it serves, including those with low to moderate incomes. This can now work to your advantage if you apply for your mortgage or refinancing at Hudson City Savings Bank.

The Mighty Hudson, New Jersey's largest savings bank, now offers qualified applicants special low rates. With as little as 10% down, you can borrow to a maximum of \$125,000 to purchase or refinance a 1 to 4 family owner oc-

cupied dwelling in one of the counties shown in the listing below. Private mortgage insurance (PMI) is required on loans over 80% of our appraised value.



To make it even easier to gain approval, Hudson City will apply less rigid qualifying standards and lack of an established credit history will not disqualify you—provided, of course, you can prove your credit worthiness and ability to repay the debt.

To apply, phone the Mortgage Origination Department at 201-967-1900 or 609-428-2740. Your new home may be just a phone call away!

TO QUALIFY, APPLICANT'S INCOME CANNOT EXCEED THE FIGURES LISTED BELOW FOR THE COUNTY IN WHICH THE PROPERTY YOU INTEND TO PURCHASE IS LOCATED.

Bergen	\$42,160	Monmouth	\$36,320
Burlington	33,120	Morris	39,520
Camden	33,120	Ocean	36,320
Essex	39,520	Passaic	42,160
Gloucester	33,120	Somerset	43,680
Hudson	28,240	Union	39,520
Middlesex	43,680	Warren	30,880

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New Jersey's largest savings bank



Children shouldn't have to grow up alone. And they shouldn't have to grow up with AIDS.

Minorities are being devastated by the spread of AIDS. 70% of all women with HIV/AIDS, and 85% of all babies born with HIV/AIDS are minorities. The National Minority AIDS Council works to stop the spread of HIV in communities of color. They keep families together. They keep our families safe from AIDS.

AIDS PROGRAMS OF THE NATIONAL MINORITY AIDS COUNCIL
202-463-6622

ENTERTAINMENT

Got news? We want to hear it. Call us at 908-754-3400 or fax story ideas in to 908-753-1036

BillBoard

THRU OCTOBER 13

PRINCETON—The 1996-97 Theater Series presents the "The Family" by George S. Kaufman and Edna Ferber at 91 University Place, Princeton, N.J. 08540. For more info call 609-683-0800.

THRU OCTOBER

NEWYORK—S.O.B.'s Bar/Restaurant/Club will host the hottest Reggae Artists and bands. For a complete listing and schedule call 212-243-4940.

THRU OCTOBER 9

JERSEY CITY—Jersey City State College will host the hottest Reggae Artists and bands. For a complete listing and schedule call 201-200-3441.

WAYNE—Wayne Chamber of Commerce begins its second decade in residence at William Paterson College. For more info call 201-595-2966.

OCTOBER 13

BROOKLYN, NY—BAM Majestic Theater presents "The Beautification of Ana Boy" by Wole Soyinka. For more info and performances call 718-638-2021.

OCTOBER 10-27

NEWARK—African Globe Theater presents "Ruthy". For more info and performances call 201-624-1584.

NEWBURNSWICK—The Rutgers Theater Company presents "Ain't the Time" by David Ives. For more info and performances call 908-932-7511.

OCTOBER 10-31

PONOMA, NJ—The Richard Stockton College art gallery presents Marilyn Ashbrook, "Urban Landscapes". An opening reception will run from October 15, 3 to 6:30 p.m. For more info call 609-652-4214/652-4505.

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 12

JERSEY CITY—Denise Mullen, chair of the Jersey City State College Department of Art, will speak on her art work at the Jersey City Museum. For more info call 201-200-3426.

WATCHUNG—Singer-pianist Ronny Whyla performs at the Cultural Center of Central New Jersey. For more info call 908-754-0990.

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 13

WAYNE—Younger saxophonist Paul Coltrane will perform at William Paterson College for the 1996-97 Jazz Room Series. For more info call 201-595-2971.

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 13

Center for Contemporary Opera presents the International Opera Singers Competition at Fairbairn Auditorium. For more info and reservations call 212-308-6728.

T-Boz is spokesperson for Sickle Cell Foundation



ATLANTA—Tionne "T-Boz" Watkins, the fair-haired member of the Grammy Award-winning TLC, has become the first spokesperson for the Sickle Cell Foundation.

Watkins, 25, is also the first spokesperson afflicted with the little understood, genetically transmitted blood disorder. "It's my understanding that I may be the youngest spokesperson for the organization as well," comments Watkins.

"This is exciting for me because I have a different understanding of the disorder from people who have not had to live with it. I hope that being as young as I am and coming from the music world will mean that I help make people who may not be aware of sickle cell informed about the disease."

The first fund-raiser sponsored by Watkins will take place on October 10 in Miami. The event will also be a showcase for Watkins' new rock group, She's the Man.

Gordon Parks headlines book signing party

NEWARK—Black Roots Plus, a New York Based black bookstore will present a series of champagne book parties featuring several of today's most prominent black male authors.

The book parties will be held on Thursday, October 10 and 24 and Wednesday, November 13 and Friday, November 22. All events will take place from 6 to 8 p.m. in the Crystal Room of the Robert Treat Hotel.

Opening the series on October 10 will be the renowned author Chester Higgins, Jr., a staff photographer for the New York Times since 1975. His photographs have appeared in *Look*, *Life*, *Newsweek*, *Fortune*, *Ebony*, *Essence*, *Black Enterprise*, *GEO*, and *Architectural*. He is also the author of the photo collections *Black Women*, *Drums of Life*, *Some Time Ago* and his latest book, *Felling the Spirit: Searching the World for the People of Africa*, a comprehensive look at the African Diaspora.

Appearing on October 24 will be Derrick Bell. One of the most compelling voices in the African-American community, Derrick Bell has never been one to back away from or avoid controversy. Throughout his 40-year career as a lawyer, activist, and writer, he has provoked his critics and challenged his readers with uncompromising candor and original views. In his

new book *Gospel Choirs*, Bell takes a hard look at the state of race relations in America and concluded that African-Americans are at the most dangerous they have ever been in their struggle for equality.

Award-winning journalist and author, Herb Boyd will appear on November 13. Boyd has written extensively for major newspapers and magazines, including *Essence*, *Emerge*, *Ebony* and *Black Enterprise*. Among his former books are *African History for Beginners*, *The Former Portuguese Colonies of Africa* and his book on African-American history, *Down the Glory Road*. Along with co-editor Robert L. Allen, he is author of the award-winning chronicle of the black man, *Brotherhood: The Odyssey of Black Men in America*.

Closing the series on November 22 will be the legendary Gordon Parks. A world renowned photographer, as well as a celebrated poet, author, composer, and film-maker, Parks has gained national recognition as a staff photographer for *Life* magazine, a position he held from 1949 to 1961. The sequel to Parks' critically acclaimed *Aria In Silence*, his new book, *Glimpses Toward Infinity* celebrates the constantly evolving imagination of a true artistic genius.

For ticket information call 201-733-3748.

NJ Tap Ensemble to perform at Monmouth University



The New Jersey Tap Ensemble, featured this year at Lincoln Center in Tap Extravaganza, opens the 1996-97 Monmouth University Dance Series season on Sunday, October 13 in Pollak Auditorium at 3 p.m.

The show entitled, *Rhythm Is Our Business* pays homage to the great tap masters of movie musicals from Bill "Bojangles" Robinson and the Nicholas Brothers to Gene Kelly, Fred Astaire and the Hines Brothers. The Ensemble will perform to live

music by a jazz combo which includes Frank Derrick, Jr. on drums and Benjamin Oxley on bass. Music is directed and orchestrated by Leonard Oxley. The troupe includes 21 multi-ethnic dancers from 12 New Jersey counties. Ages range from 9 to 40.

Director Deborah Mitchell of Newark, who performs with the company, was a principal dancer in the Broadway musical *Black and Blue*. She also appeared in the film *The Cotton Club*. Mitchell founded the ensemble in

1994 to help ensure that tap dancing not become a "lost" American art form. "Tap dancing is deeply rooted in American history," she says. "For many years it was absent from the American state, and had it not been for some of the masters of this wonderful art form who kept it alive among themselves throughout this country, it might have become a 'lost' art," she added.

Tickets for the performance can be obtained by calling 908-571-3483.

Get On The Bus on October 16

Spike Lee's new movie chronicles the Million Man March of October 16, 1995 and features (front row, l to r) Andre Braugher, Hill Harper, House Brown III, DeAndrea Bonds, Charles Dutton, Steve White, (back row, l to r) Gabriel Casseus, Thoms Byrd, Osile Davis, Ishia Washington, Roger Smith, Harry Lennix and Bernie Mac as men who board a bus headed for Washington D.C. and the historic march as strangers but emerge three days and two thousand miles later as brothers.



People who make things happen.

"Restoring traditional family values is one of our main objectives for the 90s."

Dorothy L. Height
President
National Council of Negro Women

Dorothy Height is a symbol of commitment. She has led the first national coalition of Black women's organizations for over 30 years. With innovative programs such as the annual Black Family Reunion Celebrations, Height and the NCNW are keeping alive the history, tradition and culture of the Black family. That's why Anheuser-Busch supports the National Council of Negro Women, just as we support other educational and cultural programs, community projects and the development of minority businesses.

At Anheuser-Busch we're committed to a better quality of life. For everyone.



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Singles to sing to

Look at what's new in CDs

by Kelly Howard

Goodie Mob - Dirty South/What Chu Know (LaFace Records)

Following up their smash hit *Soul Food*, these good ol' Atlanta boys are back again with two very different tracks. Whereas *Soul Food* was light-hearted, *Dirty South* and *What Chu Know* delve into the deep, darker side of hip-hop.



Southside B.O.L.Z. - Get Ready, Here It Comes (It's the Choo Choo) (LaFace Records)

This funky-flavored, fast song has taken over clubbys all over—north, south, east and west. Like other songs of this style (*Whoo! There Is*), *Get Ready*,



Anthony Hamilton - Nobody Else (MCA Records)

Funky grooves and soulful vocals pour abundantly in this new track from Anthony Hamilton. Pure singing ability and great production, make *Nobody Else* a radio and club favorite.



Here It Comes (It's the Choo Choo) keeps people on their toes with its energetic vibe.

Xavier - Saturday Song (Atlantic Records)

Xavier's *Saturday Song* is an eclectic mix that is reminiscent of *Soul II Soul* and *Lenny Kravitz*, yet is still solely his own. The mix of the drums, the guitar and his almost falsetto tenor voice make this a definitely different listening pleasure.

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PASSION
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AUTOMOBILE SPECIAL

What's MSRP? And why ignoring it could cost you plenty!



by Roosevelt Gist, Jr.

MSRP (Manufacturers Suggested Retail Price) is the dollar amount assigned by the manufacturer and affixed to the bottom of the window sticker. It's sometimes called the "monroney." The MSRP includes the cost of advertising, destination and handling, dealer profit, standard equipment, dealer holdback, and any optional equipment installed by the manufacturer.

The MSRP cannot be changed by the dealer. It is always found on the window sticker sent with the vehicle from the manufacturer. On new cars the window sticker must, by law, stay on the vehicle until sold.

Some dealers will and can add additional equipment and fees to the selling price of the vehicle, but these items do not change the MSRP. The new selling price created by these additions is most often called the "list price."

Rarely should you pay MSRP or above. Most dealers recognize the savvy car buyer and are willing to negotiate a price less than the MSRP.

Not so with the Mazda Miata and Dodge Viper. When they were introduced several years ago, demand was so high and supply so low that most dealers took advantage of this situation.

Some Miata buyers paid \$7,000-\$10,000 above MSRP and Dodge Viper buyers paid up to \$25,000 for a \$56,000 automobile. Today you can buy either car below the MSRP. Remember, 98 percent of all vehicles sold depreciate as soon as you drive it away from the dealership.

The success of Saturn's sales strategy has changed how cars are priced and sold. All Saturn dealers sell at

MSRP, with no negotiating, so shopping around will not affect your price. If you want to own a Saturn you will pay MSRP.

General Motors has tested value pricing by selling selected models of Oldsmobiles and Chevrolets at MSRP with no deviating by the dealers. It's an attempt to piggy back on the Saturn success story.

MSRP is also very important in calculating your lease payment. The residual value (estimated worth of vehicle in the future) is calculated as a percentage of MSRP. Additional costs are then added to this figure to determine your total monthly lease payment.

AAA offers advice on buying a safer car

FLORHAM PARK—With car companies introducing their new 1997 models, car buyers can expect to hear all about features that affect car's safety. The AAA New Jersey Insurance Agency has compiled a list of safety features that can better protect your family.

Height-adjustable safety belts. Height-adjustable safety belts are a new innovation that will make a youngster more likely to buckle up. Height-adjustable seat belts rest over the collarbone and keep whoever is riding in the vehicle comfortable and secure.

Integrated child safety seats. An integrated child safety seat is a great convenience for parents on the go or for car-pooling small children. It's as safe as a traditional car seat and can accommodate children ages 1 to 6, from 20 to 60 pounds.

Daytime running lights. Daytime running lights help reduce the number of accidents that occur dur-

ing daylight because they make your vehicle more visible to others on the road. They automatically turn on when you start your car's engine and shut off when you turn the engine off.

Dual air bags. Dual air bags are lifesavers when used properly with safety belts. Infants and children can be seriously injured by a passenger side air bag. That's why infants and children should always ride in the back seat of a vehicle.

Anti-lock brakes and traction control. Anti-lock brakes (ABS) and traction control offer an extra safety feature for car owners who drive in snow or rain. They're designed to keep vehicle wheels rotating as the brakes are applied to assist you in achieving a controlled stop. ABS automatically pumps the brakes (as often as 15 times per second).

Rear-door latches. Rear-door latches prevent children from opening a car door from the inside.

Auto dealer incentives

The real way to get the best deal

by Roosevelt Gist, Jr.

Auto manufacturers entice their dealer body to sell more of a particular model by offering enormous monetary incentives. These are unadvertised dollars that go directly to the selling dealer. The incentive is time sensitive-based on the dealers performance against quota and vary by region and model.

There are a lot of vehicles with incentives out there to choose from, including 1995's 1996's and even some 1997's. Again the most up-to-date place to find this information is Automotive News newspaper.

As a prudent shopper you can begin to see why the "best deal" is such an elusive animal. Unless you truly study the market, live in the right region, pick the right model and buy during the designated time frame from the dealer that meets quota you really don't have any chance of beating the system.

The potential loss of huge incentives, a major reason why several

people can buy the exact car from the same dealer and get different prices. Some dealers are more willing to pass along a portion of their incentives to further reduce your price to earn your business.

If you negotiate a great price and get the manufacturer's rebate and before you walk out the door the dealer offers

really only want \$50 over invoice? Don't expect dealers to give you all their incentive dollars.



you another \$400 off, you've done a good job. Now, do you

That's like giving up your Christmas or performance bonus. Keep this thought in mind, car dealers are in business to make a profit. They should be allowed to make a profit. But, you don't want to be the one they make all of the profit on.

FLORHAM PARK—You've just purchased a car. Whether it's new or used, you want to keep your car looking and running its best. How you care for the car will determine its resale value. Since the average age of a car on the road today is eight years, it's important to take proper care of your car.

The AAA New Jersey Automobile Club recommends these seven steps to preserve your car's resale value.

Maintenance: Change your car's oil and filter every three months or 3,000 miles.

For additional maintenance, follow the service schedule in your owner's manual and get your car tuned when it's due.

Interior Upkeep: Use a dash cover to keep the sun from baking in cracks. A bath towel that matches your car's interior set neatly in the rear window is an economical way to keep the sun from fading the fabric and keeping your car's resale value high.

Exterior Upkeep: Keep touch-

up paint on hand to take care of the nicks and chips that all cars get from daily driving. If applied quickly touch-up paint will prevent rust from damaging your car. As for fender-benders, utilize your insurance policy and get your car repaired. Use the money for money dealer or body parts to take proper care of your car's.

Driving Style: Avoid hard driving, especially on a cold engine. Let your car warm up before driving. It takes five to seven minutes for a cold engine to reach normal operating temperature and for motor oil to work properly.

Records: Keep records of all service and repair done to your car. **Detailing:** Wash and wax your car regularly. A thorough deep-cleaning prior to putting your car on the market will definitely maximize its resale value.

Knowledge: Knowledge is not just power; it's dollars in your pocket. Be absolutely sure of your car's worth before putting it on the market.

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A well engineered dream

We cruised for a while, getting to know each other. Hugging as we curved, feeling nothing could get in our way, a smooth experience is what I knew was ahead. Destination... forever in a day. They said my head has always been in the clouds - my favorite has always been Cirrus. It's silver lining is left on my soul, right where it belongs.



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Extended service contracts

Life insurance for your car?

by Roosevelt Gist, Jr.

Extended service contracts have always been a topic of much concern. Whether they're covering cars or appliances, I see it as "medical insurance" for your car. No one likes it until a problem occurs. Extended service contracts get so much bad press because dealers have over-priced them with huge markups and so many companies have gone out of business without paying claims.

Your main concern before buying an extended service contract should be the financial stability of the company behind the agreement. There will be millions of dollars in claims usually in the third and fourth years. You don't want to be left paying for the repairs because the company has gone out of business. That happens because the company took the up front profits and placed nothing in reserves for future claims.

Extended service contracts are sold based on the make, length of agreement and mileage, i.e., 6 years or 100,000 miles. This means you're covered for 6 years or 100,000 miles, whichever comes first.

Know how many miles you drive. The cost difference between makes is based on the previous repair history

of that vehicle.

Automobiles are better built, have better manufacturer's warranties but, are still subject to mechanical breakdown. Repair labor rates have gone down from the roof. Parts prices are rising. Would you rather pay a \$400 or \$900 repair bill or just the \$50 deductible and a company pays the balance. That's your real choice.

Thoroughly review the terms, conditions, companies covered and length of the agreement. Know if you have to pay before the repairs are made. If you get reimbursed, when. You will need to keep all maintenance records, such as oil changes. Find out the cost to renew your existing coverage. Remember your car will be a used car with higher rates. Keep your agreement in your car at all times. It could be a long time before you need it and that way you will have it available at all times.

Dealers sell extended service contracts from \$425 on up. The more expensive will be priced higher. To get your best price shop the cost. Call your insurance company because many now sell this coverage. Banks and credit unions also sell extended service contracts. They will call it "mechanical breakdown coverage insurance."

*Cast your vote on November 5
The candidate we elect will effect,
the cost of the automobile you select.*

BUSINESS

Got news? We want to hear it. Call us at 908-754-3400 or fax story ideas in to 908-753-1036

Community service award given to key execs

Business Calendar

October 7 thru 10

MERCER CO.—Mercer County College sponsors "Meet the Experts" counseling marathon for small business. To schedule a free counseling appointment, call 609-596-4800 ext. 688.

Wednesday, October 9

SCHENECTADY, NY—National Seminars Group will help you learn "How to be a Successful Team Leader," at Best Western Rotterdam Inn. For more info, call 1-800-258-7246.

BRIDGEWATER—Somerset Chamber of Commerce presents "The Impact of Development-Proposed Retail Projects" luncheon beginning at 11:30 p.m. at Bridgewater Manor, Rt. 202-206N. For more info call 908-725-1552.

TRENTON—The Regional Alliance along with Sen. Frank Lautenberg and NJDOT Commissioner Frank Wilson will be holding an open house ceremony for the Region's new headquarters at 150 W. State St., Suite 310 from 2:00 to 5 p.m. RSVP at 609-392-5600.

TRENTON—The Small Business Development Center's Financing Alternatives for Small Business at 1 W. State Street in the Community Room beginning at 5:30 p.m. To register call Corinne Piedra Allen at 609-586-4800 ext. 688.

Thursday, October 10

PITTSFIELD, MA—National Seminars Group will help you learn "How to be a Successful Team Leader," at Berkshire Hilton Inn. For more info call 1-800-258-7246.

UNION—The Union County Economic Development Corporation will host a workshop, "Electronic Commerce Software Demonstration" at the University of Scranton. For more info call 908-527-1166.

TRENTON—The Small Business Development Center at Mercer County College and CoreStates National Bank presents "Financing Alternatives for Small Business" seminar. To register, call Lorraine P. Allen at 609-586-4800 ext. 688 or fax 609-394-8167.

NEW ORLEANS—Three corporate executives received Herbert H. Wright Community Service Awards during the recent 1996 National Urban League Service Breakfast. Each was cited for "reaching back" to help less-experienced workers in learning the corporate environment.

Named for the late Director of Urban Affairs at Philip Morris in New York, the prestigious Herbert Wright medallions are given to corporate executives whose efforts have captured the spirit of Wright, a charismatic pioneer among African-Americans in major business corporations. Winners are chosen by the Business Policy Review Council, a Washington-based organization of African-American corporate executives.

George R. Lewis, Vice President and Treasurer, Philip Morris Companies Inc., and a Trustee of the Na-

tional Urban League Inc., hosted the Philip Morris-sponsored breakfast and served as master of ceremonies.

This year's winners chosen by the council were: Ronald E. Harrison, vice president, Community Affairs, PepsiCo Inc.; Eugene McCullers, recently retired corporate manager, Community Affairs, Coca-Cola Company; and Mark V. Monteverdi, manager, Public Programs, Philip Morris Companies Inc.

Medallion winner Harrison remembered Wright as one who "reached out" and advised him personally early in his career. "He taught us to reach out and help each other," Harrison said. "That is what we should all be about."

McCullers remembered that Wright was greatly concerned that senior African-Americans with major corporations "should help to bring

along others behind us."

At the time of his death in 1981, Wright had a national reputation as a pioneer African-American business executive with a major American business organization. He inspired and tutored countless African-American sales and marketing executives and advised business firms on corporate responsibility.

Wright's nephew, George L. Knox III, is vice president of Corporate Communications at Philip Morris Companies Inc. Like his uncle, Knox has played a major role in building and strengthening ties with African-Americans throughout the country.

"We are all proud of the award that Mark Monteverdi received at the Urban League Conference," Knox said. "He is an outstanding example for young men and women aspiring to serve in the corporate world."



Three honored executives presented with the Herbert H. Wright Award during the National Urban League Conference were, (from left), Mark V. Monteverdi, manager, Public Programs, Philip Morris Companies, Inc.; Eugene McCullers, recently retired corporate manager, Community Affairs, Coca-Cola Company; and Ron Harrison, Vice President, Community Affairs, PepsiCo. (At right) is Benjamin Ruffin, Chair, BPCC.

American Contract Compliance Association celebrates 10 years

MINNEAPOLIS, MN.—The American Contract Compliance Association (ACCA), the nation's largest organization representing over 10,000 affirmative action, contract compliance, equal employment opportunity and disadvantaged business professionals in the U.S., Canada and South Africa, recently celebrated its tenth anniversary.

At the national conference held in Minneapolis, Minnesota from September 9 to 15, ACCA founder Robert J. Harrison, Leonard W. Miller, Kerry L. Kirkland and the late Luis

Molina were honored. Attended by over 500 compliance professionals from the U.S. and Canada, the conference focused on ACCA achievements and implementation of future strategies.

Harrison, co-founder and past national president, said, "It was quite appropriate for the founders' recognition ceremonies to be held in the great St. Paul/Minneapolis area, because that is where Kerry, Luis, Len and I made the decision to formulate the American Contract Compliance As-

sociation while attending a training conference in St. Paul, MN."

Harrison added, "Now the survival of affirmative action, contract compliance and equal employment opportunity as we know it is in jeopardy due to setbacks we have been experiencing in court cases. "That is why it is of the utmost importance that compliance professionals be provided with the most comprehensive information available both legal and educational, and that state of the art training be provided to insure

that compliance professionals can initiate programs that can meet the muster of the Supreme Court decisions."

ACCA co-founder, Leonard Miller said, "The atmosphere our compliance professionals work in is very restrictive and allows for the status quo to renege itself, thus perpetuating the discrimination that was rampant prior to the affirmative action, equal employment opportunity and contract compliance program implementation both nationally and locally."

Addressing the conference,

Hamilton Bowser, past president and a current member of the National Association of Minority Contractors, said, "By joining and organizing ACCA, those persons are able to share their knowledge and experiences to make their programs more effective and inclusive for those persons and businesses that have been historically underutilized."

"I was fortunate to have known the four local persons who helped initiate and focus ACCA and have provided continuous leadership."

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It's a given. Most of us know that with education and hard work, you can do just about anything. But it takes a little more than just providing a classroom for our kids to do well. It takes nurturing and an understanding of how to succeed in our society. We believe that's why Historically Black Colleges and Universities graduate more black children into a productive work force than any other major university. HBCUs fill our communities with brilliant black professionals, graduating over 40% of the nation's black doctors and dentists, 50% of black lawyers, and 75% of black Ph.D.s. That's why Nissan supports HBCUs by sponsoring the Nissan-HBCU Summer Institute to help enrich and develop HBCU faculty. With this support, black institutions have better aids and tools to empower and inspire our children for our community and our future. Nissan is dedicated to taking people places.



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For more information call
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9:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.

LEGAL S

LEGAL NOTICE

HOUSING AUTHORITY OF THE CITY OF EAST ORANGE
160 Haledale Street
East Orange, New Jersey 07018

SECOND AMENDED ANNUAL MEETING NOTICE

Pursuant to Chapter 251 Laws of 1975, known as the Open Public Meetings Act, the following meeting has been scheduled for the Housing Authority of the City of East Orange, which the business of said Authority may be formally discussed, decided or acted upon. The purpose of this Amended Annual Meeting is:

To change the date of the October 8, 1996 meeting scheduled to occur in the Annual Meeting held on December 12, 1995 and the Amended Annual Meeting held on May 24, 1996 to the same or other respects now be held on October 17, 1996.

The previously published Annual Meeting Notice, dated May 24, 1996, remains in full force and effect.

10/09/96 F.E. \$44.20

NEW JERSEY TRANSIT CORPORATION FY1996 FEDERALLY FUNDED PROGRAM UNDER THE INTERMODAL SURFACE TRANSPORTATION EFFICIENCY ACT OF 1991 FINAL NOTICE

The New Jersey Transit Corporation (NJ TRANSIT), under provisions of the Intermodal Surface Transportation Efficiency Act of 1991, gave notice on September 26, 1995 and October 19, 1995 of its intent to pay for Federal funds which were set aside to be available for the purpose of providing operating and capital assistance. NJ TRANSIT is giving notice of its intent to pay for Federal assistance estimated to be available for transportation services for senior citizens and persons with disabilities and for transportation in unusual, and if proposed projects were executed, and an opportunity is given to obtain additional information requested by submitting a letter or comment on the program and NJ TRANSIT's performance.

The final FY1996 Federal program is provided below:

PROJECT	FEDERAL FUNDS
Operating Assistance	180.02
Hudson Bergen Light Rail Transit System Land Acquisition and Final Design/Construction	38.30
Purchase of Rail Cars	2.44
Newark City Subway Accessibility Design	3.20
Rail Accessory Equipment	2.00
Maintenance (Spare Parts)	2.28
Rail Support Facilities Improvements	1.00
Plan Station New York Improvements	8.86
Purchase of Buses	19.10
Property Capital Lease	8.71
Private Carrier Capital Improvement Program	1.30
Newark Penn Station Planning Study	4.15
Management Information System Upgrade	6.00
TOTAL	106.86

SECTION 5308 FIXED GUIDEWAY FORMULA FIDUCIARY
(In Millions of Dollars)

PROJECT	FEDERAL FUNDS
Rehabilitation of Rail Infrastructure	29.41
Metrolink Connection Final Design	1.00
Purchase of Rail Cars	25.00
Purchase/Maintenance of Way Equipment	3.00
TOTAL	62.41

SECTION 5309 DISCRETIONARY PROGRAM
(In Millions of Dollars)

PROJECT	FEDERAL FUNDS
Securities Transfer Construction	79.28
Hudson Bergen Light Rail Construction	12.40
NYS&W Rail Line/Paterson Station Rehabilitation	21.58
TOTAL	113.26

SECTION 133 SURFACE TRANSPORTATION PROGRAM
(In Millions of Dollars)

PROJECT	FEDERAL FUNDS
Metrolink Terminal Rehabilitation	7.0
Newark Penn Station Rehabilitation	8.3
TOTAL	15.3

SECTION 148 CONSTRUCTION AND AIR QUALITY IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM
(In Millions of Dollars)

PROJECT	FEDERAL FUNDS
Newark Penn Station Rehabilitation	5.00

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(In Millions of Dollars)

PROJECT	FEDERAL FUNDS
Newark Penn Station Rehabilitation	5.00

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City News Publishing Company
144 North Ave.
Plainfield, NJ 07060

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City News has an immediate opening for an Inside Sales Representative. Responsibilities include selling incoming calls, soliciting response from prospect lists and telemarketing for direct sales. Must be organized, goal oriented and able to type 45 words per minute. Telemarketing experience is preferred. Send resume to:

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City News Publishing Company
144 North Ave. Plainfield, NJ 07060

Help Wanted: Earn up to \$500 per week assembling products at home. No experience. Info: 1-504-446-1700. DEPT. NJ45155

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Successful candidate for this position will have 2+ years of proofreading experience. Job requires patience, attention to detail, flexibility, and ability to work with a team and meet deadlines. Strong grammar and language skills are essential. Send resume to:

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SPORTS

SPORTS IN THE GARDEN STATE

City News 1996 High School Football schedule

by Dennis Wilson

PLAINFIELD CARDINALS

1995 (2-7-0)
Mike Theodoratos, Head Coach
 9/27 at Bayonne
 10/5 IRVINGTON
 10/12 at East Side/Newark
 10/19 at Kearny
 10/26 UNION
 11/1 at Elizabeth
 11/9 RAHWAY
 11/16 LINDEN
 11/28 WESTFIELD

ROSELLE RAMS

1995 (5-4-0)
Lo Grasso, Head Coach
 10/5 Hillside
 10/12 GOVERNOR LIVINGSTON
 10/19 IMMACULATA
 10/25 at Manville
 11/2 NORTH PLAINFIELD
 11/9 JOHNSON REGIONAL
 11/16 MIDDLESEX
 11/28 at Roselle Park

ROSELLE PARK PANTHERS

1995 (6-1-0)
John Wagner, Head Coach
 10/12 at Dayton

10/18 NEW PROVIDENCE

10/25 at North Plainfield
 11/1 at Bound Brook
 11/8 RIDGE
 11/15 HILLSIDE
 11/22 ROSELLE

SNYDER TIGERS

1995 (3-6-0)
Alex Franklin, Head Coach
 10/12 at Marist
 10/18 at Hoboken
 10/26 at Hudson Catholic
 12/1 at Emerson
 11/8 UNION HILL
 11/16 LINCOLN

WEEQUAHIC INDIANS

1995 (1-6-0)
Burney Adams, Head Coach
 10/11 at Randolph
 10/18 SETON HALL PREP
 10/25 at West Morris
 11/2 at Livingston
 11/8 MORRISTOWN
 11/16 at Morris Knolls
 11/27 at East Orange

WESTSIDE/NEWARK ROUGH RIDERS

1995 (0-9-0)

10/5 MONTVILLE
 10/12 at Essex Catholic
 10/19 CLIFFORD SCOTT
 10/26 at Passaic Valley
 11/2 DELBARTON
 11/9 at Wayne Valley
 11/16 at West Milford

WILLINGBORO CHIMERAS

1995 (4-5-0)
Tyrone Belford, Head Coach
 10/5 at Pemberton
 10/12 SHAWNEE
 10/19 at Lenape
 10/26 at Holy Cross
 11/9 at Rancocas Valley
 11/15 at Washington Twp
 11/23 SALESIANUM (IDE)

WOODROW WILSON/CAMDENTIGERS

1995 (9-2-0)
Steve Murray, Head Coach
 10/5 EDGEWOOD
 10/12 at Camden Catholic
 10/19 at Pennsauken
 10/26 CHERRY HILL WEST
 11/2 EASTERN
 11/9 at B-hop Eustace
 11/16 PAUL VI
 11/28 at Camden



Ruvina Kelly of Newark raced in the rain to finish the 1996 5K Run through the Caldwell.

Mayor Sharpe James to run in Integrity House race

NEWARK—The leaves are starting to turn and there is a nip in the air. It can only mean one thing: Fall is upon us. And Newark Mayor Sharpe James says it's a perfect time for a road race. James urges Newark citizens to put on their running shoes and join him at Integrity House's 5-K Corporate and Individual Race on Wednesday, October 16.

The race will begin at noon in Washington Park and Broad Street. The mayor and his staff will be hitting the pavement at the annual event to benefit the Gate City drug treatment facility.

"I urge everyone to come out and enjoy this fun race," James said. "Better yet, join me in the race. To us is a great event for a great cause—the support of an outstanding facility fighting substance abuse."

There will be no race registrations for teams. However, race day registration will be available for individuals at 10:30 a.m. Packers may be picked up on October 14 and 15 at the Sneaker Factory in Milburn. For more information call the Race Hotline at 201-376-0251, or 201-623-7246.

Nominations needed for sports hall of fame

EAST RUTHERFORD—The Sports Hall of Fame of New Jersey is seeking candidates for consideration for its fifth class of inductees. The deadline for nominations is November 8. The selection will be made by a 25-member Nominating Committee and then passed on to the Hall of Fame's Board of Directors for the final vote. The names of candidates should be submitted to the Nominating Committee, Sports Hall of Fame of New Jersey, New Jersey Sports and Exposition Authority, East Rutherford, NJ 07073, along with a brief reason why the candidate's name is being presented.

"We are asking all New Jersey sports fans to join us as we honor New Jersey's athletic legends. Unlike other Halls of Fame, your voice counts in New Jersey, so please get your nominations in as soon as possible," said Bob Mulcahy, president and chief executive officer of the New Jersey Sports and Exposition Authority.

The Hall of Fame will honor amateur or professional athletes, deceased or alive, who have resided in New Jersey or who have had a significant connection with the Garden State. There is a three year waiting period following their retirement from active competition.

Also included is a category of contributors who are coaches, officials, members of the sports media, and individuals who served in administrative, promotional or other influential capacities. Contributors are eligible for nomination whether active or inactive at the time of their nomination. For further information call 201-507-8134.

Results in for Annual Sprint Triathlon

LONG BRANCH—Scott Duprex, of Bayonne, set a course record in the Monmouth County Park System's Sprint Triathlon held on Sunday, September 8, in Long Branch. Duprex completed all three portions of the swim-bike-run event in 58:52, just outpacing second place finisher Kevin Parks of Freehold, who finished at 59:22.

In the women's division, Rebecca Cleveland of Melbourne, Australia, held on to a healthy lead as she clocked a time of 1:05:53, to capture the title. Behind Cleveland was Robin Schulte of Bodminster, with a time of 1:09:23.

Over 350 competitors took on the challenging course, which included a 1/4 mile ocean swim, followed by a 13-mile bike race, and concluding with a 4-mile run. The course led racers through the communities of Long Branch, Monmouth Beach and Sea Bright.

For more information about Park System races, including the 1996 Timberbrook Triathlon on October 19, and the Friends of the Park's Perfect 10 Marathon on November 2, call 908-542-1062.

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With a Fleet Home Equity Line, improvements around the old homestead are just the beginning. Our low introductory fixed rate of 5.99% APR for 9 months can extend well past your front door. Pay off high interest loans, or consolidate your credit card balances. The line can also be used for the increasing cost of education, or even for the purchase of a car. Whatever your needs, we're there. After the first 9 months the rate goes to only Prime + .95%. And if you transfer balances of at least \$40,000 your rate is just Prime + 0% for the life of the line. You pay no points or closing costs, and the interest is usually tax-deductible. To apply for a Fleet Home Equity Line, just call 1-800-CALL-FLEET (1-800-225-5353) in NY, and 1-800-628-9378 in NJ. You can apply by phone 24 hours a day, 7 days a week.

Or stop by any of our branch locations. Whichever is more convenient. The Fleet Home Equity Line.



Offer applies to new home equity lines of \$25,000 or more with an LTV of 80% or less. After the first 9 months, APR max. will increase based on The Wall Street Journal Prime Rate, using the Prime Rate of 8.25% in effect on 8/7/96, the APR would then be Prime + .95% or 9.20% (Prime + 0% if you transfer other loan balances of \$40,000 or more). Maximum APR: NY 15.9%, NJ 16.5%. Hazardous materials, equipment, and animals are excluded. Not available in restricted jurisdictions. Limited to one-to-four family homes or condominiums in NJ, Long Island, Westchester County, and the five boroughs of NYC. Rate subject to change without notice. Offer expires 8/31/96. Consult your tax advisor on the deductibility of interest and other charges. Fleet is a registered trademark of Fleet Bank Corp. Member FDIC Equal Housing Lender.

5.99% APR FOR FIRST 9 MONTHS, PRIME + .95% (9.20% APR) THEREAFTER

NEWARK, NEW JERSEY

NOT A VENTURE

**SPECIAL
EDITION**

**1996 Fire
Safety &
Prevention
Issue**



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the Chief**
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LET'S HEAR IT FOR FIRE SAFETY: TEST YOUR DETECTORS!

Every year, fires cause nearly 4,000 civilian deaths, nearly 21,000 civilian injuries and more than \$4.4 billion in property damage, according to the National Fire Protection Association.

Smoke detectors are capable of reducing your risk of dying in a fire by half. It is common knowledge that fires occur much more frequently in the homes of persons of color. It is therefore very important that we heed the advice that we first of all make sure we have smoke detectors and that we maintain them.

Virtually every major city's fire department now has a free or reduced-cost smoke detector giveaway program. Many major city fire departments also participate in the "Change Your Clock, Change Your Battery" program, in which they distribute free 9-volt batteries for every smoke detector in the homes of disadvantaged persons. Make use of this information and call your local fire department.

A number of fire departments also provide free fire

safety inspections for businesses and homes. If you are not sure whether you are doing things properly, then please call your local fire department for this help as well.

This fire safety and fire prevention issue also comes at a sad time when arson fires

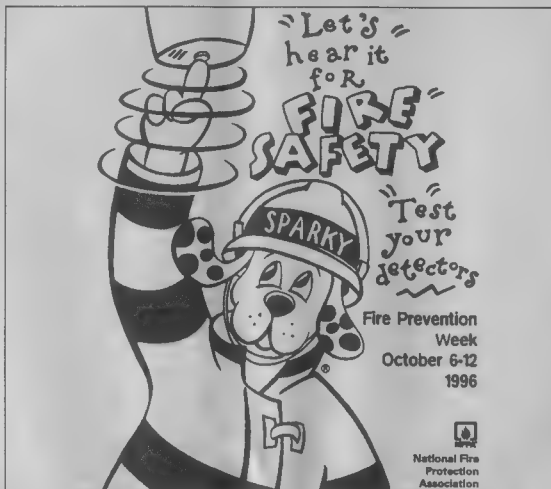
have gutted at least 35 African American churches throughout the country. Churches are a common target for arson, and because of this, we have included a number of articles on preventing arson, on recognizing the signs of juvenile firesetting, and also urge you to call your local fire depart-

ment if you have any information on a particular arson fire or on a young person who displays the troubling signs of firesetting. The fire department is here to help prevent deaths, injuries and damage to property.

We are grateful to all the fire departments, the National Fire Protection Association, which is celebrating its centennial this year, the National Fire Marshals Association and all the organizations who make it their goal to prevent these needless fire deaths and injuries, as well as to all the individuals who have made fire safety a personal goal.

We are very grateful to Philip Morris USA for sponsoring these fire prevention and fire safety issues, as they have for nearly a decade. It is through their help that we have been able to supply you with this helpful information. Read through it, save parts of it or share it with a friend or relative. The more everyone knows about preventing fires, the better off we all will be.

The Publisher



NFPA CELEBRATES 100 YEARS WITH FREE VIDEOS

By Patti David

The National Fire Protection Agency is celebrating its centennial by donating 60,000 copies of the "Sparky's ABCs of Fire Safety" video to communities throughout the country.

The nonprofit organization will dis-

tribute its award-winning videos to every public elementary school in the United States.

"This gift truly comes from the heart of NFPA," said NFPA President George D. Miller. "In the 100 years we've been working toward a safer world, we've seen time and time again that reaching our children is the best way to ensure future generations of more fire-safe people."

The video will also be made available to fire departments, fire safety educators and others for the cost of shipping and order processing.

"Sparky's ABCs of Fire Safety" is an effective tool proven to teach children lessons that can save their lives."

— George D. Miller
NFPA President

their parents a thing or two about fire safety, it's also an effective tool for adults."

In this video, Sparky the Fire Dog, who has been reaching out to children with NFPA's lifesaving messages for 45 years, leads children through a magic "alphabet land" where each letter teaches children an important fire safety lesson.

Sparky will also be starring in a series of public service announcements which feature the voice of veteran actor Dick Van Dyke. The messages will begin airing close to National Fire Prevention Week, which runs Oct. 6-12 this year. The PSAs, which combine live action with animation, will be distributed to major North American markets starting in December.

The videos normally retail for \$359.75, but will cost only \$9.95 for shipping and handling.

To order the video, send \$9.95 to Sparky's ABCs c/o NFPA, One Batterymarch Park, P.O. Box 9101, Quincy, MA 02269.

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"Sparky's ABCs of Fire Safety" is an effective tool proven to teach children lessons that can save their lives," Miller said. "Since children can teach

ANNUAL FIRE PREVENTION ISSUE NOW ONLINE!!

For the past eight years, *The Skanner*, a Portland- and Seattle-based weekly newspaper has published an annual Fire Prevention and Fire Safety issue the week prior to National Fire Prevention Week.

Originally, the special insert, which features a wealth of material on emergencies, prevention, fire safety and prevention and a host of related topics, was published and distributed only in Portland, Ore. In the years that followed, a growing number of newspapers expressed interest in being featured and included. Over the past five years, *The Skanner*, with a grant from Philip Morris, U.S.A., has published these special issues in 17 cities across the country.

We are proud to bring our fire safety and prevention issue to the Internet, to increase the fire and safety awareness and to make the information available nationwide.

We urge everyone to spread the message of fire safety. If you are interested in "localized" hard copies for the individual cities, they can be obtained by contacting the following newspapers.

Portland, OR: *The Skanner*
Seattle: *The Skanner*
Renton: *The Skanner*
Oakland: *The Post*
Los Angeles: L.A. Observer
Riverside: *The Black Voice*
Atlanta: *The Atlanta Inquirer*
Dallas: *The Dallas Weekly*
Pittsburgh: *Renaissance News*
Philadelphia: *The Observer*
Detroit: *Michigan Chronicle*
Cincinnati: *Cincinnati Herald*
Cleveland: *Cleveland Call and Post*
Boston: *The Banner*
Newark: *City News*
Miami: *The Miami Times*
New York: *New York Daily Challenger*

*Denotes issues which have Hispanic versions in addition to English versions.

If you would like to request more copies of this special 1996 Fire Prevention Week Supplement, send your requests in writing to:

THE SKANNER

P.O. Box 5455
Portland, OR 97228
(503) 287-3562

The Skanner Newsgroup Web site: <http://www.theskanner.com/>
e-mail: news@theskanner.com

FIRE DEPARTMENT URGES PUBLIC TO GET EDUCATED ABOUT FIRE SAFETY



By Stanley J. Kossup
Fire Director and Fire Chief
Newark Fire Department

Each year the National Fire Protection Association or NFPA has a campaign highlighting a particular fire issue which they feel should be general public knowledge. This year, their campaign message is "Let's Hear it for Fire Safety. Test Your Detector."

This is a very important fire safety message. I completely agree with the necessity of each household having at least one working smoke detector. These detectors should be tested periodically and their batteries replaced on at least an annual basis. The NFPA's lit-

***I do not believe a
smoke detector can
prevent a fire. Fires
can only be
prevented by an
informed public.***

erature mentions that "a smoke detector only prevents fires when it is working."

I do not believe a smoke detector can prevent a fire. A smoke detector will give you an early warning of an incipient fire, but it cannot prevent a fire. Fires can only be prevented by an informed public.

One of the main objectives of any good fire prevention program is public

education. Public education helps make people aware of the unsafe acts and hazards that cause fires.

A good public education program informs the public what to do in the event a device such as a smoke detector or carbon monoxide detector gives out an alarm. It teaches people to have a plan (Exit Drills in the Home—the EDITH Program) of what to do in the event of an alarm.

Public fire prevention education usually begins in the schools. Most states have programs that begin with the basics of fire education at the kindergarten level and continues through the 12th grade. These programs are geared for the age level they address.

At the lower levels, they use various characters such as the NFPA's "Sparky the Fire Dog" to get the message across. The aim of these programs is not only to make the young people aware of the dangers of fire, but to, hopefully, bring this message home to their parents.

There should be a fire education program in your community. Whether this program is sponsored by the local fire department or some civic organization, it should be modeled after a nationally recognized plan for public fire prevention education. If there is no program, then one should be started.

Fires in the home still claim more lives than any other type of fire. There is no reason this should be true. Home fire prevention is a simple matter of knowing what causes fires and removing these hazards from your home. The best way to protect the lives of your family, as well as your property, is to "get educated."

NUMBER OF U.S. FIREFIGHTER DEATHS DECLINES

By Patti David

For the third time in the last four years, the number of U.S. firefighter deaths has declined, bringing the figure to 88 in 1995. The figure marks a 15.4 percent decrease from the 104 fatalities reported in 1994.

"It's very encouraging to see from he 1995 figures that we have resumed our trend toward reducing firefighter fatalities

in the United States," said George D. Miller, president of the National Fire Protection Association. "We had hoped the increase in 1994 firefighter deaths was a temporary change in direction, since the increase was primarily attributed to a large wildland incident that claimed 14 lives."

As recently as the late 1970s, the national average for firefighter deaths hovered around 150 a year. The 1990s

has seen an average of 93 deaths per year.

"Our goal, of course, is to see this number drop even further, since even one fatality is one too many," Miller added.

Almost 49 percent of the firefighter deaths in 1995 occurred on the fire ground, according to the National Fire Protection Association. Another 27 deaths occurred while responding to or

returning from alarms. Stress, including heart attacks, caused 42 of the fatalities—it was the leading cause of firefighter deaths, followed closely by being struck by objects, including vehicles. Of the fire deaths in 1995, 50 were volunteer firefighters and 29 were career firefighters. The remaining nine firefighters killed were forestry, military and industrial firefighters.

IT'S COOL TO KEEP YOUR FIREPLACE SAFE

By Patti David

Keep your home fires burning, but don't let them burn down your house! Fireplaces and hearths are warm and cozy gathering places during the cold winter months, but it is essential that they are fire safe. Follow these tips:

Have your fireplace inspected annually, and if needed, have it cleaned to prevent a chimney fire. Chimney fires occur if there is a buildup of soot and grime on the interior of a chimney. If a particularly hot fire is built in the fireplace, the heat can ignite the soot inside of the chimney.

Never burn anything other than wood or coal in a fireplace. Many chimney fires are caused by burning paper (such as Christmas wrapping paper and tissues) in the fireplace. Paper burns

more rapidly and more hotly than wood or coal and will often give off large sparks, which can cause a chimney fire. Many of the coatings on paper have chemicals which can build up inside of the chimney, making it necessary to clean the chimney more frequently.

Whenever you have a fire in the fireplace, always make sure there is a grate over the opening of the fireplace to prevent sparks from reaching combustible surfaces such as carpets, furniture or curtains.

Never allow a fire to burn unattended.

Never allow children to play around a fireplace if there is a fire going.

Do not leave combustibles close to the fireplace.

Keep a working fire extinguisher close to the fireplace and know how to use it.

Never leave fireplace igniters, match-

es or lighters within the reach of children.

Never try to start a fire using lighter fluid, kerosene or gas. Inexpensive and safe fire starters are available at hardware stores and most supermarkets during the winter months.

Stack your firewood so that it does not roll off once the fire is going.

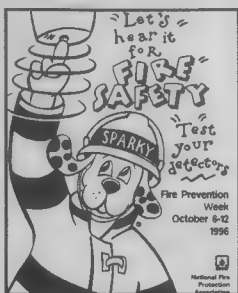
Always keep your fireplace clean. Remove all ash before starting a new fire and dispose of the ash in a metal container such as a metal pail. Thoroughly wet the contents of the pail before disposing of the ash—there may be live coals in the residue.

Fireplaces can cause fires if sparks escape from the chimney. If your chimney is not equipped with a spark arrester, have one installed. These simple items prevent sparks and other

burning materials from escaping and starting roof fires or igniting other nearby combustibles.

There are two types of spark arrestors. The first type is made of a woven wire mesh, usually 12-gauge minimum wire, with a maximum of 1/2" holes. The second type is a cast iron plate, usually 3/16" minimum thickness, with 1/2" holes, spaced an inch apart from center to center.

Install these protective devices over the top of the chimney so that no unprotected opening is greater than a half inch square. Once installed, spark arrestors should be inspected at least once a year, because the heat from fireplaces will eventually burn away the metal. If metal has been burnt away or if openings are greater than 1/2", the spark arrester should be replaced.



Fire Safety Fun

We thank the Seattle Fire Department's Fire Education Division for providing these helpful games and puzzles.

If Your Clothes Catch On Fire...

(trace the letters below)



Stop



Drop



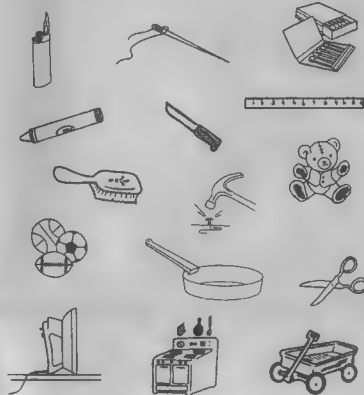
Roll

TOOLS OR TOYS?

Put a ☐ over the safe tools for children.

Put a ☐ on tools that are not safe for children.

Put a over the toys.



Who is watching this campfire?



Help Smokey Bear find the grown-up who needs to watch this campfire.



If people are not careful, campfires can start forest fires. That's why a grown-up should always watch a campfire. Forest fires hurt more than just trees. Animals, people, and people's homes can be hurt by forest fires.

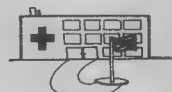


COMMUNITY HELPERS

Draw a line to match the person with their job.



Firefighters rush to put out fires.



Doctors help us stay well.



Medics help us if we are hurt.



Police officers keep streets safe.



LET'S HEAR IT FOR FIRE SAFETY. TEST YOUR DETECTORS.

CLEARING THE AIR ABOUT SMOKE DETECTORS

By Patti David

On May 17, 1996, the ABC News program "20/20" aired a piece on residential smoke detectors which downplayed the effectiveness of these life-saving devices. In response to this, the International Association of Fire Chiefs sent out bulletins asking fire departments around the country to reinforce the public about the facts surrounding smoke detectors.

The following information was provided by the IAFC. It contains information about smoke detectors to clear the air about any doubts the news program may have brought into the public mind.

How effective are smoke detectors? Residential fire deaths have decreased steadily as the number of homes with smoke detectors increased. Reports from the National Fire Protection Association on residential fire deaths show that people have nearly a 50 percent better chance of surviving a fire if their home has the recommended number of smoke detectors.

Should I replace my smoke detector? Smoke detectors that are 10 years old are near the end of their service life and should be replaced. A smoke detector constantly monitors the air 24 hours a day. At the end of 10 years, it has gone through more than 3.5 million monitoring cycles. After this much use, components may become less reliable. This means that as the detector gets older, the potential of failing to detect a fire increases. Replacing them after 10 years reduces this possibility.

My detectors are wired into my electrical system. Do I need to replace them as often as battery-operated detectors? Yes. Both types of detectors are equally affected by age.

How many detectors should I have? The average sized home or apartment needs more than one smoke detector. The exact number depends

on the number of levels in the home and the number of rooms used for sleeping. National fire safety standards recommend a minimum of one detector on each level of the home, one detector outside the bedroom area and one in each bedroom.

Is there more than one type of smoke detector and what is the difference? There are two types of smoke detectors for homes. One type is called an ionization detectors because it monitors ions, or electrically charged particles. Smoke particles entering the sensing chamber change the electrical balance of the air. The detector's alarm will sound when the change in electrical balance reaches a preset level.

The other type of detector is called photoelectric because its sensing chamber uses a beam of light and a light sensor. Smoke particles entering the chamber change the amount of light that reaches the light sensor. The detector sounds when the smoke density reaches a preset level.

Is one type of detector better than the other? The ionization detector responds faster to small smoke particles, while the photoelectric responds faster to large smoke particles. As a rule, fast-flaming fires produce more small smoke particles and smoldering fires produce more large particles. Thus, the response time of the two types of detectors will vary, depending on the mix of small and large smoke particles in the fire. Test results show that the differences in response time are small enough that both types provide enough time to escape.

What is more important—the type of detector or the number? The number of detectors is more important than the type. Installing several smoke detectors of each type will provide better coverage in the extreme cases of long-term smoldering or fast flaming fires. But since both types respond in time to escape, the most important

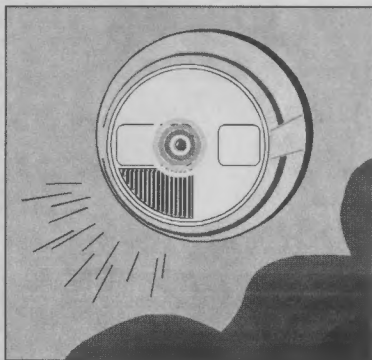
thing is to install enough detectors in the proper locations. Detectors are available with both types of sensors in the same unit, but they are more expensive than models with a single sensor. If the choice is between having only one of each type or having more of the same type, more detectors is the better choice.

My detector goes off when I cook. How can I stop this?

Smoke detectors are designed to be very sensitive so they will alert occupants to a fire in time for them to escape. If a detector regularly responds to smoke from cooking, there are several ways to handle this problem. One way is to replace the detector with one that has a button that silences it for a few minutes. Another is to move the detector farther away, giving the smoke a chance to dissipate. Moving a ceiling-mounted detector to a wall can also reduce nuisance alarms, but this will also make it a little slower to respond to a real fire. If the detector is an ionization type, another option is to replace it with a photoelectric type. This detector is less sensitive to smaller smoke particles and thus is less affected by cooking smoke.

How can I test my detector? Every smoke detector comes with a test button. We recommend that people test their detectors regularly, at least once a month.

Should I use real smoke to test my detectors? This is not recommended because the burning objects used to create the smoke might cause a fire. Some stores sell pressurized cans of



simulated smoke for this purpose. When using this product, follow the operating instructions and do not get the can too close to the detector. This prevents the smoke from coating the detector's sensing chamber, which can make the detector inoperable.

How important is it to clean my detectors? Cleaning is easy. Just vacuum the detector at least once a year. This will keep the openings to the sensing chamber free of dust, residue from cooking vapors and insects.

What about changing batteries? Smoke detector batteries should last at least one year under normal conditions. The biggest reason that smoke detectors don't work is because people remove the batteries and forget to replace them. When a battery reaches the end of its service life, the detector will give a short beep every minute or so. It is easy to remove the battery and then forget to replace it. The best way to prevent this is to replace the batteries at the same time each year before the low battery signal begins.

NEW LAWS COULD REDUCE DEATHS IN UPHOLSTERED FURNITURE-STARTED FIRES

By Frank McGarry

In 1993, although only 3 percent of the fires in American homes were started by the ignition of upholstered furniture, these fires caused 9 percent of the injuries and more than 17 percent of the deaths in residential occupancies. Tragically, those most at risk from these fires are the poor and minority segments of our nation's population.

This is why the National Association of State Fire Marshals, an organization whose members are the most senior fire official from each of the 50 states and the District of Columbia, has been hard at work in its efforts to encourage the federal government to require fire resistant standards for all upholstered furniture sold in the United States.

In 1993, the National Association of State Fire Marshals petitioned the Consumer Product Safety Commission to impose flame resistant standards on all residential upholstered furniture sold in our country, including imported pieces.

In 1994 the Commission accepted NASFM's request to set ignition-resistant standards for small open flame-caused fires and began the lengthy process of establishing this regulation.

However, when NASFM asked for regulations requiring that upholstered furniture be resistant to smoldering (or cigarette-type) ignition as well, the Commission's response was that it wanted to study the voluntary industry standard for this type of ignition before it would consider mandatory standards.

In 1975, the furniture industry, through its own Upholstered Furniture Action Council, established a voluntary program to produce smoldering ignition-resistant upholstered furniture in order to avoid mandatory standards.

The industry's voluntary standard has been attacked by many fire officials since, because there is no evidence that this standard works, and there are serious questions about the industry's full compliance with the standard.

The industry claims that manufacturers who make a majority of the upholstered furniture in this country comply with the standards, but a recent NASFM project studied industry compliance in stores that market low-cost, discount furniture to many of the economically disadvantaged residents in nine states.

The study showed that in most cases, more than 50 percent of the furniture on display did not comply with the industry's own voluntary standards. In

addition, many of the sales persons, whom the industry relies on to assist customers in choosing fire resistant furniture, did not even understand the program. In some 35 percent of the cases, they gave consumers dangerous misinformation which could lead to injury or death, if this furniture ignites.

This tragic situation cannot continue. The 800-900 preventable deaths which occur annually due to fires in upholstered furniture demand more than lip service by an industry that profits from the sale of more than 24 million pieces of upholstered furniture each year.

Currently, only California requires that all residential furniture sold within its borders meet certain ignition-resistant standards. NASFM believes that if the entire country enforced the same standards as California, fire deaths due to the ignition of upholstered furniture would decrease dramatically—from up to 900 annually to about 100 per year for the entire country.

California has enforced its standards for more than 15 years. Despite the fact that California's is the fastest growing population in the nation, its upholstered furniture fire deaths and injuries continue to decline.

When California began to enforce its standards some years ago, the furni-

ture industry claimed that manufacturers would go out of business; that the fire-resistant upholstered furniture would cost 70 to 80 percent more; and that customers would not buy the furniture because it is less comfortable.

Today, there are more than twice the number of furniture manufacturers selling in California than before the standards were imposed. The predicted cost increases, in the rare cases when they occurred, amounted to less than 5 percent. What's more, California's upholstered furniture is considered among the most comfortable furniture available in today's market.

If the United States follows the lead of California and requires that all upholstered furniture sold in this country be resistant to open flame as well as to smoldering ignitions, this would reduce the fire deaths caused by upholstered furniture to about 10 percent of the 800-900 deaths that occur due to these fires each year, saving more than 700 lives each year.

Frank McGarry, currently a Fire Protection consultant, is the former Fire Administrator for the State of New York. He was the founding Vice President of, and from 1992-1995, served as President of the NASFM.



STOP KITCHEN FIRES BEFORE THEY START!

By Frank McGarry

How many times have you just started dinner when the phone rings, and before you realize what's happening, you smell the bitter odor of food burning in the bottom of the pan?

Have you ever just begun heating the oil so the family can enjoy grandma's delicious fried chicken recipe when you hear a loud crash and the baby starts to cry?

Distractions happen all the time, but they can be deadly when we are cooking. In 1993, cooking fires accounted for more than 25 percent of all fires in U.S. homes, responsible for 370 deaths and about 6,000 injuries.

Typically, African Americans are more prone to cooking fires than other ethnic groups, according to a recent study. Although the reasons for this are still unclear, the figures showed that African Americans were involved in more than 60 percent of all the cooking fires studied.

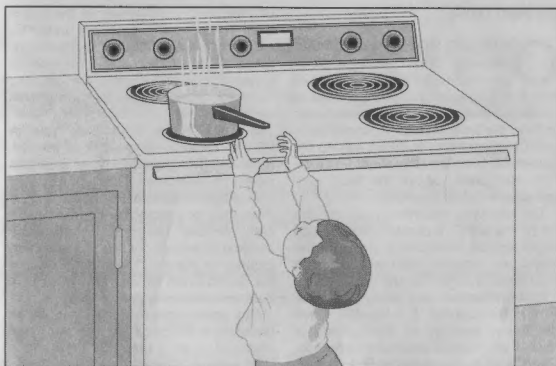
The study considered more than 2,000 cooking fires in 10 cities, ranging from Boston, Mass. in the East to Portland, Ore. in the West. It found that unattended cooking was responsible for 75 percent of the cases reported during the six-month data collection period. The study, conducted jointly by the National Association of State Fire Marshals and the Association of Home Appliance Manufacturers, found that in these cases, people began cooking, were distracted from the task, and a fire

started.

We face distractions continually, but they are critical when we are involved in risky activities. For instance, distractions when people drive at high speeds on freeways often prove injurious or fatal. It is tragic, however, that few people see how critical our attention to the main task is when cooking—a task which is done at least once a day. It's no wonder that cooking fires are one of the three main causes of fires in homes. Fortunately, these fires are preventable.

The study showed that most cooking fires occur on range tops. Ovens, both microwave or regular, toaster ovens and other cooking appliances account for only a small percentage of the cooking fires analyzed. The study showed that men were responsible for 41 percent of the cooking fires, suggesting that they may be more prone to distractions when cooking. This statistic is especially pertinent when one considers that women prepare substantially more meals than men do—78 percent of them, according to a recent Roper study.

Contrary to popular belief, most of the fires—more than 50 percent—were caused by people between the ages of 30 and 49. It had been widely believed in the past that the elderly and the very young are more likely to cause cooking fires. Instead, the study shattered the belief—instead, the age group most considered least likely to be prone to simple distractions while cooking was the most likely to be involved in a cooking fire.



Potential Risk: Never leave cooking unattended. Cooking fires are responsible for 370 deaths and about 6,000 injuries each year.

There were a number of recommendations, based on the findings.

First, that unattended cooking be given special attention in cooking fire safety education programs; that special attention be given to safe range-top cooking practices; that adults, between the ages of 30 and 49 should be a target group of any fire safety education programs that focus on reducing the likelihood of unattended cooking; and, finally, that additional research should be conducted to determine what factors contributed to the high incidence of

cooking fires among African Americans.

Most of the United States' 280 million people have to cook on a regular basis. It should not be the major cause of injuries and fatalities that it unfortunately is.

Frank McGarry, currently a Fire Protection consultant, is the former Fire Administrator for the State of New York. He has also served as the founding Vice-President, and, from 1992-1995, President of the National Association of State Fire Marshals.

IS YOUR CHILD A JUVENILE FIRESETTER?

At least 80 percent of all children play with fire at one time or another. How can you tell if your child is a juvenile firesetter?

The National Fire Protection Association lists four categories of juvenile fire-setters.

These categories are:

The Curiosity Firesetter: This type of firesetter is usually between 4 to 7 years of age, and most are boys who start fires out of natural curiosity. Curiosity firesetters can usually benefit from learning that what they have done is not safe, and that there are dangers involved in setting fires.

The Delinquent Firesetter: Delinquent firesetters are usually slightly older than the curiosity firesetters, and may reach up to age 16. They usually perform these acts deliberately, with the intent to cause damage. Their motives may include revenge, a desire to strike out due to family problems or change, such a relocation, a divorce in the family, a new boyfriend or girlfriend. Most delinquent firesetters are male and require both counseling and education.

The Problem Firesetter: These fire-setters can range in age from about 10 to 16, and are usually youth with other anti-social behavior. Many belong to

gangs or may be involved in other crimes. Problem firesetters may be placed in a juvenile home. They can benefit from learning what kind of damage they cause and that there may be severe consequences to their continued destructive behavior, such as being institutionalized. They should be given extensive counseling.

Severely Disturbed Firesetter: These juvenile firesetters are often emotionally disturbed and may not even realize that their activities are wrong. They may set fires in an effort to solve a problem they perceive in their home or school. These youth are referred to



specialists and may possibly be institutionalized, in order to protect themselves and others.

PROTECT YOUR HOME FROM A SILENT KILLER

There is a silent, colorless, odorless potential killer in our homes, and we can take steps to stop it. Carbon Monoxide, or CO, is a colorless, odorless, deadly gas that can kill you or your family before you know it's there.

"This gas is a common by-product of appliances that run on flammable fuel," said Cincinnati Fire Division's Fire Chief Thomas E. Steidel. "It can be emitted by gas or oil furnaces, gas clothes dryers, water heaters, fireplaces, wood stoves, charcoal grills, gas ranges and space heaters. A clogged chimney or improper venting can cause problems as well."

CO problems can be prevented by properly maintaining heating equipment. Following are some tips for homeowners:

Check your chimney regularly to make sure it is clear of debris and open

to outside air.

Hire a reliable heating and cooling contractor to provide periodic preventive maintenance of your heating unit.

Make sure furnace filters are clean. Replace them when they are dirty.

Keep your heating equipment burners clean—check the flame to be sure it is blue and not yellow.

Make sure that the vent pipe which connects to your furnace, space heater or water heater to the chimney is free of holes, cracks and separations.

Make sure that your furnace, water heater and space heaters have an adequate supply of fresh air for combustion and venting.

Make sure that your gas heater's name plate indicates that it is certified by the American Gas Association (AGA) Laboratory or other accredited

certification agencies.

All gas space heaters must be equipped with a gas pressure regulator.

All gas heaters must be vented to the outdoors with the exception of unvented gas space heaters equipped with oxygen depletion safety shut off systems certified by AGA. Check with the local fire authority for its use.

You can suspect a carbon monoxide leak if you see soot or black deposits on your furnace, space heater or water heater, excessive condensation on your walls and windows, if indoor plants die in your home for no apparent reason, and flu-like symptoms occur and persist.

Symptoms of low-level carbon monoxide poisoning include headaches, fatigue, nausea, dizzy spells and confusion among members of the household.

Do these symptoms disappear or abate when household members leave the house for a period of time?

If you suspect carbon monoxide is present in your home, get out of the house immediately and call your local fire department or utility company from a neighbor's home. Discuss the source of carbon monoxide with the fire or utility company official and have it repaired immediately.

Carbon monoxide detectors are now available for home use. These devices sound an alarm as early warning when CO is present. These detectors should have the Underwriters Laboratory seal or the seal of another accredited certification agency. Contact your local fire department for the recommended number of detectors and placement in the home.



LET'S HEAR IT FOR FIRE SAFETY. TEST YOUR DETECTORS.

You Can Help Prevent Arson

By Patti David

The Federal Bureau of Investigation considers arson a crime as deadly as forcible rape and murder. Unfortunately, it is a common crime. Arsonists in the U.S. cause about 1,400 deaths each year and more than \$1 billion in property damage. Paul Keller, the Seattle area's infamous serial arsonist, was responsible for setting at least 76 fires, causing more than \$22 million in property damage.

Arson is the intentional damaging of property by the use of fire or an explosive device. What is so disturbing is that anyone could potentially be an arsonist.

"There is no typical arsonist's profile," said Deputy Chief Tom Oney of the Dallas Fire Department. "It could be anyone. What you have to look for are the reasons arsonists would set fires."

U.S. Fire Administration data show that arson occurs for quite a variety of reasons: vandalism; revenge; as a cover-up for another crime such as burglary; to defraud insurance companies; because of emotional disturbance; and finally, as

a profession—arsonists-for-hire are unfortunately becoming more common.

Arson tends to occur more frequently during difficult economic times, Oney said.

"The vast majority of arsons by adults are to gain economically," Oney said. "Business failure, debt on a home or vehicle, or even just trying to get ahead of the game by having insurance companies foot the bill are the most common reason arsonists set fires."

Arsonists like to target dry and isolated brush areas, which provide the felons with easy targets for large-scale destruction. They also tend to hit abandoned buildings, construction sites and any building surrounded by combustible materials—including schools, houses of worship, condominiums and housing tracts.

Arsonists typically do not want to be noticed—stealth is imperative for them, so they prefer to set fires when there is no one around. Because of this, neighborhood crime watch programs are important—they deter arsonists, burglars and vandals.

"What we tell everybody to do is be aware of conditions in their neighborhoods," said Charles Andrews, a fire investigator with the Renton, Wash. Fire Department. "They should form clean-up crews and clean the neighborhood up. They should lock all doors including garage and exterior storage doors and report any suspicious behavior or activities to the police or fire department."

The proper, safe storage and quick disposal of trash and other flammables will also deter arsonists.

There are several types of arsonists, but the true pyromaniac, the person who sets fires for the gratification it brings them, is quite rare.

Pyromaniacs usually wind up under the jurisdiction of psychiatric review boards, and require ongoing psychiatric help. But they differ from what are known as arsonists of opportunity, who are defined as people with some kind of mental defect or deficiency, who succumb to temptation when materials which can help them light fires are available.

How To DETER ARSONISTS

Clear out potential fuels such as leaf piles, newspapers, trash and combustibles from storage sites, stairwells and porches. Lock all doors and windows, especially around basements, garages and ground floor areas. Install ample outdoor lighting.

Learn the daily routine in your neighborhood and report suspicious activities to the police.

Let police and firefighters know about vacant buildings that are starting to deteriorate in your area.

Teach children about the serious consequences of fire and arson.

Give police, firefighters or insurance investigators as much cooperation and information about any fire they are checking into in your neighborhood.

Is Your Place of Worship Safe From Fires?

By Patti David

Over the past summer, the media has brought our attention to the alarming spate of fires that have hit Black churches throughout the country. Although a few have been accidentally caused, a large percentage are being investigated as possible arsons. Arson is a deadly crime, and churches are among the more common targets.

Although no building is arson-proof, there are ways of lessening the risks involved in such incidents, as well as of discouraging arsonists from choosing your church as a target.

Make sure the building is secure. Keep all doors and windows locked from the outside, but make sure that they can be opened from the inside, in case of fire or another emergency. Keep all unlocked entrances monitored. Greet and escort visitors to their destinations, if possible.

Install and maintain night lighting on

all sides of the building. Motion detectors are inexpensive and will deter arsonists.

If your place of worship is equipped with a security alarm, have it tested to make sure it is working properly.

If your place of worship has a 24-hour sanctuary, monitor access to the remainder of the building.

Any watch should be conducted from outside the place of worship.

Keep landscaping away from doors and windows to eliminate hiding places and improve visibility around the building.

Reduce fire danger. Become aware of fire hazards and do something to reduce the chances of a fire starting or spreading rapidly.

Eliminate available fuel sources that will feed a fire. Piles of wood, paper, trash and debris should be properly disposed of.

Keep materials that are stored outdoors at least 5 feet away from the building.

Provide a secure and approved storage place for flammable liquids and chemicals. Contact your local fire department for details on approved cabinets.

Ask neighbors to watch the building and encourage them to report suspicious activity. If your neighborhood has a developed citizens' foot patrol or crime watch, make contact with them

Fight crime. Make your congregation a crime fighting force. Educate them about potential problems.

Make sure that all fire extinguishing and smoke detection systems are in place and proper working order.

Keep the building clean both inside and out.

Keep the landscaping green to make it more difficult for fire to spread.

Fight crime. Make your congregation a crime fighting force. Educate them about potential problems.

and enlist their help.

Have members drive by the place of worship when possible. If any members discover anything suspicious, have them call 9-1-1.

Keep members up to date on scheduled activities. Make sure groups who use the place of worship or its grounds for events are scheduled for these activities.

NFPA FIRE FACTS

U.S. FIRE LOSS STATISTICS FOR 1994

Every 15 seconds, a fire department responds to a fire somewhere in the United States. Public fire departments responded to 2,054,500 fires in the United States, of which 614,000 occurred in structures (including 438,000 in homes), 422,000 occurred in vehicles, and 1,018,500 occurred in outside properties.

Nationwide, there was a civilian fire death every 123 minutes. Exactly 4,275 civilians (non-firefighters) died in fires, down 7.8 percent from the previous year, and 3,425 of those deaths occurred in home fires, down 7.9 percent. About 80 percent of all U.S. fire deaths occurred in home fires.

Nationwide, there was a civilian fire injury every 19 minutes. There were an estimated 27,250 civilian fire injuries, of which, 19,475 occurred in homes.

There were 1,073,600 firefighters in the United States, serving in 30,495 departments. Of these firefighters, 265,700 were career and 807,900 were volunteer. In 1994, there were 7,700 women in firefighting and fire prevention occupations, according to the Bureau of Labor Statistics.

A total of 104 firefighters died while on duty. Of these, 33 were career, 38 were volunteer and 33 were non-municipal (those not employed by local, public fire departments). That same year, 95,400 firefighters were injured while on duty. Of those, 52,875 occurred on the fireground.

HOME FIRE PREVENTION CHECKLIST

Use this handy Home Fire Prevention Checklist to make your homes more firesafe:

- ✓ Smoke detectors near bedrooms, away from air vents, at least one per floor
- ✓ Smoke detector batteries checked weekly
- ✓ Emergency phone numbers posted near each telephone
- ✓ Kitchen and hallways well-lit
- ✓ Doors, hallways and stairs clear of obstruction
- ✓ No flammable materials within three feet of space heaters, fireplace or stove
- ✓ No flammable liquids stored near ignition sources
- ✓ No frayed or cracked electrical cords
- ✓ No electrical cords under rugs, over nails or in high traffic areas
- ✓ No overloaded electrical outlets

- lets or extension cords
- ✓ No unusually warm outlets
- ✓ All fuses in fuse box are the correct size
- ✓ All outlets have cover plates and no exposed wiring
- ✓ No alternate heaters hooked up to extension cords
- ✓ No alternate heaters placed where they can be knocked over
- ✓ All heaters are unplugged after they are turned off
- ✓ No grease on stove or oven
- ✓ Rubberized floor mat set in front of stove to prevent slipping
- ✓ Dish towels are not used as pot holders
- ✓ No ashtrays on sofa or chair arms or near beds
- ✓ Chimneys cleaned and clear of debris

Compiled by the United States Fire Administration.



FIRE SAFETY IMPERATIVE FOR APARTMENT RESIDENTS

By Patti David

We see it on the news often enough—stories about people who perish in apartment complex fires or multi-family dwelling fires. Although all fires are dangerous and potentially fatal, special attention must be paid to fire safety in buildings where more than one family lives.

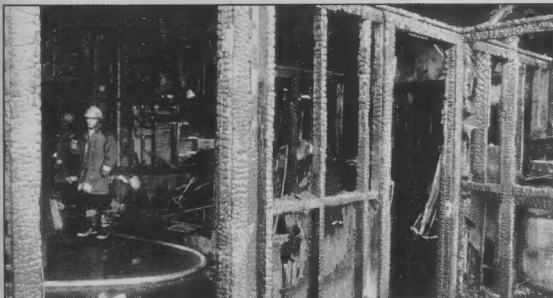
The reasons are simple. Apartment buildings, complexes or condominiums house greater numbers of people in greater densities. Each of the residents in these multi-family dwellings is capable of accidentally starting a fire. Fatalities may be higher not only because of the increased density but also because multi-story dwellings may take longer to escape from, should a fire start. Other reasons for increased vigilance include the possibility that apartment managers, who are responsible for the maintenance of a large number of units, may not be as aware of potential fire hazards as a homeowner in a single-family dwelling.

It is because of the greater potential for fire and injury that apartment and condominium dwellers should take special precautions to ensure their safety. The Portland Bureau of Fire, Rescue and Emergency Services in Oregon compiled the following fire safety tips:

Always work to prevent fires and fire deaths. Smoke detectors are required to protect the sleeping areas in your home. Tenants are responsible for testing their smoke detectors at least monthly. Push the button on the detector—it should beep loudly. If your smoke detector uses batteries, replace them at least once a year. Never disable smoke detectors. Periodically vacuum around detectors to remove cobwebs and dust, which can impair a smoke detector.

Plan ahead. Every family should have a fire escape plan and should practice it. Know at least two ways out of the building. Feel door knobs and doors before you open them. If they are hot, do not open them. Use another exit instead. Be sure to close all doors as you pass through, including your apartment door. If you run into smoke, drop to the floor and crawl, since smoke and heat rise. Choose a family meeting place outside and well away from the building, so that you know that everyone from your family is out. Fire escape routes must not include elevators, which might take you right to the fire.

Keep things safe. If you notice that exit lights are not lit, are broken or vandalized, notify the apartment or condominium manager. Exitways should be kept clear of trash and other obstructions.



Total Devastation: Firefighters finish their work in a fire-gutted complex. Fire strikes anywhere, and multi-family dwellings are often hardest hit.

Self-closing doors, such as those which lead into stairwells, should never be blocked open or locked. These doors keep smoke and flames from spreading in the event of a fire.

Act at once. If you hear the building alarm, react immediately. Do not wait for instructions to begin evacuation. If there is a fire, every second counts.

If you discover a fire, pull the building alarm to alert others. If you can close doors to confine the fire, do so. Once you leave the building, call 9-1-1 from a

safe location to make sure that the fire department responds. Be prepared to tell them the nature of the emergency and the address of the building, in case your area does not have an enhanced 9-1-1 system.

If you have special needs that prevent you from leaving the building via the stairwells, ask the building manager to post your name and room number at the fire alarm panel or in the manager's office, so that firefighters learn that you need help.

PRACTICE YOUR HOME FIRE ESCAPE PLAN OFTEN

Most fatal fires occur at night, when most people are asleep, according to data from the United States Fire Administration. These deaths can be prevented if everyone creates and practices a home fire escape plan.

About 2.4 million fires reported each year in the United States, which has one of the highest rates in the world. About 80 percent of these fires occur in private homes. These fires cause more than 5,100 deaths and 100,000 injuries annually.

The very old and the very young are the most vulnerable to fire deaths. These age groups are more than twice as likely to die in fires, because the old

often have infirmities or have difficulty moving, and the very young may not know what to do, how to react or may not be physically capable of moving themselves to safer ground.

Repeatedly practicing a fire escape plan allows families to make safe escape second nature and to work out any kinks or problems which they may otherwise not think about until a fire actually strikes.

When creating a fire escape plan, it is essential that we:

- Make sure all persons in the house have two ways to escape from bedrooms. Collapsible ladders should be purchased from hardware stores for all two-story or higher sleeping rooms.

- Practice feeling our way through each room with our eyes closed.

- Choose an outside meeting place so that household members know if anyone is missing.

- Practice the home fire escape plan regularly.

- Keep a flashlight with fresh batteries available so we can see even slightly through smoke.

- Keep a whistle available to alert the family.

- Keep the fire department's phone number handy.

- Install and maintain a smoke detector or two on every level of our home.

If a fire occurs, everyone in the house-

hold should be trained to crawl to a door and touch it to see if it is hot. If it is, they should be told to leave by an alternate escape route. If people are unable to leave their room or apartment, they should try to seal the cracks around the door with wet towels and open the windows for fresh air. Household members should also be told that if their clothes catch fire, they should stop, drop to the ground and roll to extinguish the flames.

"Most fire safety behavior is common sense, yet thousands of Americans are injured or killed in fires each year because they cannot remember what to do," USFA guidelines state. "Surviving can be as simple as devising a home escape plan, but it must be practiced."

FIRE HEROINE NOW TEACHING CHILDREN FIRE SAFETY

By Patti David

Most of the children she has been teaching since April of this year through one of the Boston Fire Department's Fire Safety courses don't know it, but Razeena Sadiq is a heroine.

"They don't know anything about that, and I like it that way," Sadiq said. "I would rather people just consider me a normal person, not a hero."

Sadiq, 17, an ROTC student who had taken up some fire science, was hailed as a hero when she was 15 years old, for saving the lives of 13 persons while she was on her way to school one day soon after the Christmas of 1994. Soon after she left for Hyde Park High School at about 6 a.m., she noticed that a two-story apartment building was on fire.

"I walked by that building everyday and would look up at the Christmas string of lights, but this time when I looked, the lights were gone, there was just a lot of fire," she said.

She did not know the building's residents, saw them often, and her mother would strike a conversation with one of the residents from time to time.

Reacting, she dropped her school bag and ran inside and banged on doors, to alert residents to the fire. Some refused to leave at first, so the young girl alerted others then returned to the apartment of those who at first, refused to leave. The hallway was full of smoke, but she did not think about herself.

Firefighters who were evacuating people thought she was a resident of the building working her own way out as she helped the elderly residents of the building escape. She did not think of the danger she put herself into, but has since learned.

"In fact, I didn't think before I acted, which is something I would do differently, now," Sadiq said. She has earned national recognition for her actions. President Bill Clinton wrote her a letter congratulating her on her heroism, and she has been written up in

quite a few newspapers since. But she does not enjoy the limelight. In fact, she tried to hide her deeds.

"I was wearing two coats because it was really cold, and I gave them both to a man who didn't have enough on," Sadiq said. "I went home to get more clothes to give to the man, and when I got back, my brother was telling the firefighters and the police what I had done. I tried to make him stop."

Sadiq has a selfless courage that extends into her desire to help people. She is trying hard to achieve what she considers will be her career—become a doctor and work on ways to cure diseases such as AIDS.

"That's what I want to do," she said. "Right now, I'm working for the Boston Fire Department, but eventually I would like to take up medicine and help others in that way."

She says she teaches the children everything she has learned in the course of fire education both through ROTC and through the Boston Fire Department. She teaches children

through the Fire Safety House, and finds it rewarding when her young students show her how much they've learned about crawling low under smoke, leaving the burning premises, and calling 911 for help from outside of the building.

"Most of all, I teach them to think before they act," she said. "That's something I did not do, and I now know better."

She also encourages the children to consider careers in firefighting or fire safety.

"Although medicine is my love, I can see that this would be a great career," said Sadiq, whose father was a firefighter and a U.S. Navy veteran.

Sadiq suffered some smoke inhalation in the process of saving those 13 lives that cold Boston morning, but she suffered no other injuries.

"It wasn't luck," she said. "I had an easy escape, I had access to both exit doors at any time, and I figured that those people needed my help more than I—so I helped them."